

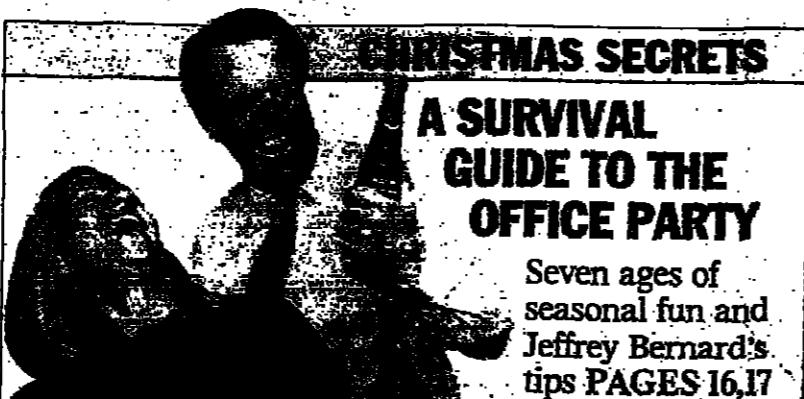
THE TIMES

No. 65,756

MONDAY DECEMBER 9 1996

TODAY

10P



CHRISTMAS SECRETS

A SURVIVAL GUIDE TO THE OFFICE PARTY

Seven ages of seasonal fun and Jeffrey Bernard's tips PAGES 16,17

MELVYN BRAGG



15 PAGES OF TIMES SPORT



TODAY

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CHRISTMAS SECRETS

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Seven ages of seasonal fun and Jeffrey Bernard's tips PAGES 16,17

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National interest comes first Major tells sceptics: I will not be bullied

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ANDREW PIERCE

JOHN MAJOR warned Conservative sceptics and mavericks yesterday that he would not be held to ransom on European or constituency issues even if it meant an early general election that could result in power being handed to a pro-European Labour leadership.

The Prime Minister issued a defiant defence of his wait-and-see policy on the European single currency, telling his critics that Britain needed to be in the negotiations to prevent other countries "cheating" on the entry conditions. Fleeing the field when the game was being played would be a dereliction

of responsibility. He said: "I am saying to my party: 'Trust me'."

Despite what was seen by most MPs as a forceful performance in a television interview, that he had requested in order to calm the renewed outbreak of civil war in his party, it was clear last night that Mr Major had failed to quell the dissatisfaction of Conservative MPs who want him to rule out a single currency for the next Parliament.

But in a fierce response to opponents after the wiping out of his parliamentary majority, Mr Major made plain that he would not budge. He was staying in the talks to defend the national interest and if he had to choose between the party interest and the national interest, he would choose the latter. Asked whether he would do so even if it cost him the election, he replied: "I shall choose the national interest."

In an uncompromising 50-minute appearance on BBC television's *On the Record* programme, Mr Major, speaking from his Huntingdon home, surprised many senior MPs both by his decision to give no ground over Europe and by the ferocity of his reaction to the activities of MPs who might use the Government's perilous position to make special demands on ministers. Some sceptic ministers had hoped

that Mr Major would use the interview to spell out his personal doubts about Britain entering with the first wave, but he disappointed them. He did say, however, that Britain had no intention of going into a "flawed economic and monetary union".

On Friday, Sir John Gorst withdrew support from the Government over a dispute about a casualty unit in his local hospital and ended the Government's majority for the first time in 17 years.

Mr Major said that in present circumstances any one backbencher could have his "moment of fame" if he wanted to be difficult on any particular issue. "Well the Government cannot be held to ransom like this and we are not going to be held to ransom like this. If they do not support us, then we may have a general election, but that is in the nature of politics. But I am not going to be held to ransom by any single backbencher on any issue."

He added: "We have set out our policy and we are going to get it through. If we do not get it through, then we do not get it through. But I am not going to have the Government bickering and weaving from the things it believes are right on the basis that somebody is trying a bit of pork barrel politics or a bit of arm-twisting of the Government because it has a small majority."

Any MPs who had that in mind would not get much warmth from activists up and down the country if they imperilled the Government's achievements because they had a "bee in their bonnet".

His words brought a speedy blast from one of the MPs who have been

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"I hate this wait
and see policy — I
want to know now"



Lucien Lawrence, the son of the murdered headmaster, with the Duchess of Kent yesterday, unveiling a plaque to his father. Page 4

Britain sets out on a £23 billion shopping spree

BRITAIN yesterday embarked on what traders called the biggest pre-Christmas shopping spree in almost a decade. A survey suggests that Britain will spend £23.5 billion on presents, food and drink, £700 million more than in 1995.

Not since the 1980s have shops been so full. Out-of-town shopping malls reported takings at least 15 per cent up on last year.

John Bryson, manager of Metro Centre, Britain's biggest out-of-town shopping mall, near Gateshead, said that at least 30,000 people had visited the centre. They spent an average of £125 each, compared with last year's £110.

At the Lakeside shopping complex at Thurrock, Essex, the earliest shoppers arrived soon after 7am — four hours before opening ... Page 6

Kabul's starving sell human bones

Human bones are being sold in Kabul, Afghanistan's ruined capital, as children rob graves to get money for their starving families (writes Anthony Loyd). The bones are sent to Pakistan to make soap and chicken feed. An average man would fetch about 7,000 afghanis — almost 50 US cents ... Page 11

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The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

Student spots golden secret of card 772

By ALAN HAMILTON

IT WAS perhaps not quite in the league of finding a Leopardo at a car boot sale, but art student Peri Kemal-Orek was more than happy when she discovered yesterday that she had acquired a Frank Auerbach original painting for a mere £50. Especially when similar work by the same artist was valued last year at more than 300 times that amount.

Peri, 21, a Turkish Cypriot living in London, turned up at the Royal College of Art to find that she had won the jackpot in an ingenuous artistic lottery run by the college. Sixteen hundred artists, most of

them students, amateurs and other unknowns, submitted postcard-sized original works for an exhibition; but scattered about the walls were a handful of works by the likes.

All were unsigned, and all on sale at £50. Peri, who submitted an entry herself, took only five minutes to decide that she would buy picture No 772. It was a tiny streetscape, but its style looked familiar.

Peri had correctly spotted the Auerbach style. The Berlin-born painter, himself a former RCA student in the 1950s who works from a north London studio, is well known for his cityscapes, and they

were much prized; his postcard-sized entry for a similar blind auction last year was valued at £10,000.

Peri, who already has a fine art degree from Birmingham University and hopes to win a place at the RCA next year, said: "I was first in the queue when they opened the bidding. I looked at No 772, saw nothing else like it in the show, and decided it must be a genuine Auerbach."

But what would she do with her newly-acquired bargain? "I would love to keep it, but I am a poor student and I may have to sell it."

All 1,600 works were sold, raising £50,000 for college funds.



Kemal-Orek spotted the Auerbach cityscape



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Chilly outlook fails to discomfit conservatory party

It was a key interview at a key moment, surprising us with its steadiness. Years of studying the man should have taught us — so why does it always come as a shock? — that just when you expect John Major to slide out from his bunker with his hands up, he comes out fighting?

Britons switched on their television sets for Sunday lunchtime's *On The Record* expecting to see a peeved and

defensive Prime Minister floundering in the face of a sadi John Humphrys. Instead, Mr Major spoke as though disposing of a little local difficulty got up by the media, before slipping into Great Stukeley for a pint before lunch.

John and Norma's Huntingdon conservatory became an eye of calm at the centre of a storm of Cabinet rumour. Dr Brian Mawhinney's scooters on Kenneth Clarke's lawn?

Why, Mr Humphrys, "I don't know whether anybody in Britain has scooters these days." An imminent shift in the Cabinet's line on a single currency? "What a load of old nonsense!" Major was ice-cool and halfway convincing, his performance laced with a self belief which, though quiet, was almost fierce.

Future students of current affairs will return the video of that interview searching for harbingers of the Tory recov-

ery — or Tory collapse — which will now follow. They will say the talk was watched by millions. "Watched" — yes. But we listened only fitfully to the debate. What gripped the nation was the inside peek at the Majors' conservatory. Was the cane furniture Ikea? Was

that a fern trained from the pot on the windowsill? "If the French are cooking the books . . ." insisted Humphrys — and, fleetingly, we caught the reflection of a figure in the window behind Major's head. Was it Norma? Or Elizabeth? Or James? Do the Majors have a home help? Would it be

white-knuckled with conviction, pressed his point about economic convergence.

And the pond? It was so much bigger than we'd expected. The nation scanned the wavelike for ducks, but not duck did we see. "The French are fudging," said Humphrys — and, fleetingly, we caught the reflection of a figure in the window behind Major's head. Was it Norma? Or Elizabeth? Or James? Do the Majors have a home help? Would it be

the interview was therefore a success. Many years ago, while being presented by Margaret Thatcher with an RSPCA bravery award for rescuing a dog, I saw the dog seized by an inappropriate passion for her leg. If she noticed, you would never have thought it. Her gracious expression in the *Sunday Express* photograph betrayed no hint of the indignity. Tory leaders learn to hide embarrassment where lesser mortals panic.

Europhiles urge Major to look beyond his party

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

A SUBSTANTIAL group of Conservative grandees and MPs join with other pro-Europeans today to warn John Major against trying to block progress in this week's Dublin summit on the future development of Europe.

In a radical policy plan, they call on Mr Major — and Tony Blair who should become prime minister next year — to bypass the Euro-sceptics in future by trying to secure all-party support in the Commons for any deal they intend to make.

Deeply suspicious that the Prime Minister is intending to take a hard line in Dublin because of his growing internal problems, Euro-enthusiasts from all parties have united to tell him that he is in danger of boxing himself into an impossible position that will damage Britain. They call for "confidence and daring" from ministers in their approach to Europe and opposition to the sceptics.

In an advertisement in *The Times*, the cross-party coalition suggested that the Government, or any future Labour government, should no longer seek to advance European developments by relying on their own supporters. Instead it should negotiate in the current inter-governmental conference — which reaches a critical stage in Dublin this week — with a view to mobilising the widest cross-party coalition of support in the Commons for any deal rather than hoping to rely on a majority from any one party as happened during the ratification of the Maastricht treaty.

It tells Mr Major that he should not regard the veto as a "credible or cost-free option" and, among its specific policy proposals that will anger the sceptics, it calls on the Government to resist any temptation to attack or dismember the European Court of Justice. The declaration from the pro-

Europeans, organised by the European Movement, is regarded as their most important statement since Maastricht. It confirms their determination to take a much more aggressive stance in their battle with the Eurosceptics, which was in evidence last week in their vocal support for the stand being taken by Kenneth Clarke on the single currency.

Some 80 national figures and 500 other supporters have put their name to the advert which attacks the present British attitude at the IGC as too cautious and dogmatic. They include Lord Howe of Aberavon, the former Chancellor, and Foreign Secretary, Lord Gilmour, the former Tory Cabinet minister, Paddy Ashdown, Lord Richard, Labour's leader in the Lords, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, the former Labour Chancellor and SDP leader, Roy Hattersley, the former Labour deputy leader, a number of former senior diplomats and five former European commissioners, including the Conservative Lord Tugendhat.

Sixteen Tory MPs have signed, including Edwin Currie, James Couchman, Tim Eggar, who resigned in



Howe recommends "more secure path"

June as Energy Minister, Sir Anthony Grant, Sir Jim Lester, Peter Temple-Morris and Sir David Knox. Lord Howe said last night that it was "imperative" for the Government to work constructively with its European partners at the IGC and elsewhere.

"That is the best way to advance British power and influence in the world. There is a large majority in Parliament and the country for such an approach. The Government should have the courage and confidence to adopt it," Lord Howe said.

"Britain's position in Europe has always been built on wide cross-party support in both Houses. It is important that the Prime Minister has that in mind. It represents a much more secure path to the future than having to rely on majorities composed from one party."

The advert says the Government seems immobilised by fears of what Douglas Hurd once called "shadows on the wall". It says: "We are in danger of painting ourselves into a corner and achieving very little, for Britain and for Europe as a whole."

It warns that Mr Major's advocacy of a multi-speed Europe, which has now led to Franco-German proposals for the establishment of an inner core "from which we would in effect exclude ourselves, places Britain's participation at the heart of Europe under serious threat".

It calls on the Government to work to ensure an agreed outcome at the IGC. "The Government risks boxing itself into a non-negotiable position in the current IGC. The UK can only secure its negotiating objectives by approaching this discussion with room for manoeuvre." It says that under no circumstances in future should the Government rule out participation in a single currency.

National interest comes first

Continued from page 1

considering whether to resign the party whip over Europe. Terry Dicks accused the Prime Minister of ridiculing and insulting him. He was "ashamed and disgusted" by the Prime Minister's attitude towards him. Mr Dicks said: "I have never been so insulted ever than to be told that I was looking for my one moment of fame. I am seething. Right now I am in two minds whether to tell him to stuff his Government and his party. That is my immediate reaction, but it is not a wise one." Mr Major asked whether

any of his critics seriously would prefer Tony Blair going off to Amsterdam in June to negotiate on behalf of Britain. Explaining why he so passionately defends the wait-and-see stance, he said: "If when the time comes they fudge the criteria, then I need to be at the table to argue against that. I need to be at the table to vote against those countries going into a single currency. What authority would I have at that table if I decided at this stage, when my critics say other people are cheating, if I said I am not going to be there to try and prevent them cheating?"

John Redwood led the procession of Eurosceptics who voiced their unhappiness. He said that nobody denied Mr Major's claim that Britain should remain in the talks, but the way to achieve influence was to have a British opinion. "Is it not time for Brussels to say if there is so much fudge coming out of Brussels the currency scheme will not work?"

William Rees-Mogg, Peter Riddell and Matthew Parris

Leading article and Letters, page 21

How Humphrys became an appetiser for Sunday lunch

By ANDREW PIERCE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN HUMPHRYS was winding up the *Today* programme at 8.40am on Friday when the telephone rang in the BBC studio. Downing Street came on the line just as the programme switched to *Yesterday in Parliament* and John Major's humiliation at the dispatch box at the hands of Tony Blair.

Jonathan Haslam, the Prime Minister's press secretary, was on the line. He wanted to know if the long-standing invitation for Mr Major to appear on the programme *On The Record* still stood. He knew the answer before Mr Humphrys said yes. But there was one

stipulation from Mr Haslam. The interview had to be at Huntingdon because Mr Major was hosting a Sunday family lunch with Norma for their son James, 21, his girlfriend Elaine Jordache, the Major's daughter Elizabeth, 25, and her boyfriend Luke Salter, 24. It was to be the first in-depth television interview with the Prime Minister to be conducted at his own home.

Downing Street had been galvanised into action after a brief survey of Friday morning's headlines. They were the worst since the fall of Margaret Thatcher. Mr Major, who was in Huntingdon, told Mr Haslam on the telephone: "Get me on the television." It had been a torrid 24 hours. After Mr

Major's mauling at the dispatch box, more difficulties were to come. John Ward, his Parliamentary Private Secretary, came to see him the same night with a written report of the meeting of the Tory backbench 1922 Committee. Even traditionally loyalist troops were reaching the stage of mutiny. An opinion poll showing the Tories 37 per cent adrift irritated Mr Major even further as it conflicted sharply with the party's own private findings.

Mr Major had a brief discussion in Downing Street with Alastair Goodlad, the Chief Whip. He had already broached the idea of a fightback with Dr Brian Ma-

hinney, the party chairman. The Prime Minister went to Huntingdon late on Thursday. When a summary of the newspaper cutting were delivered to his home, The Finings, his mind was made up. The media counter-offensive was under way.

Some mischievous aides of Mr Major thought that the timing was ideal. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, had gone away for a long weekend with his wife Gillian. The break was at her behest. It meant he was out of reach of the press.

Invitations were in Mr Haslam's desk from big-name interviewers, including Sir David Frost. But Humphrys, the anchorman of the *Today* programme, was the Prime

Minister's choice. One week earlier Humphrys, one of the toughest political interviewers, had spent a convivial evening with Mr Major at the Australian High Commission.

It was a fundraising evening for the Newspaper Press Fund, which helps journalists who have fallen on hard times. Humphrys is the chairman. Mr Major, in a light-hearted speech, poked fun at his BBC sparring partner. Humphrys responded in kind. But the last laugh was on Mr Major.

When the dinner ended, Mr Major and Humphrys, who were still locked in conversation, asked for a beer. Humphrys had to admit that, surprisingly for a journalistic

gathering, they had run out. Neal Blewett, the Australian High Commissioner, rescued the situation. He disappeared into the cellar and returned with reinforcements. Before they parted that night Humphrys reiterated his wish for Mr Major to come back on to his show.

Mr Major agreed to ponder the request. While some ministers object to Humphrys's aggressive style, the Prime Minister is said to relish the fight. It was significant that last year, having triggered the leadership contest, he chose Humphrys's programme to argue his case the following Sunday.

The BBC arrived in Huntingdon at 8am. Humphrys showed up one

hour later at a breakfast with his production team at the Bridge Hotel, a short drive from the Prime Minister's home. A similar breakfast was going on at the same time in Mr Major's house with Mr Haslam and Howell James, his political secretary, to rehearse the answers for the 50-minute interview.

After the interview, recorded an hour before it went out, Mr Major introduced the presenter to his wife and family, who were gathered in the large kitchen, and showed him the new goldfish pond. Humphrys said afterwards: "He was in fighting form. Grown up politicians like a tough interview."

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Royal divorce
for Prince's

Fiancée of 'road rage' knife victim is held by police

BY DANIEL McGROarty

THE fiancée of the alleged "road rage" victim Lee Harvey was under police guard in hospital last night after she was arrested in connection with his stabbing on an isolated country road a week ago.

Detectives are waiting for doctors to decide whether Tracie Andrews, 27, is well enough to be questioned about the murder, which she told a televised press conference came after a violent confrontation with another driver.

Miss Andrews had been in hospital after taking an apparent drug overdose and returned to the flat she shared with Mr Harvey in Alvechurch, Hereford and Worcester, on Saturday where police were waiting for her. She was taken to Redditch police station but after being examined by two doctors they decided she should be admitted to hospital, describing her as being in a "dangerously emotional state".

Her mother and stepfather, Irene and Alan Carter, have been allowed to visit her and are looking after five-year-old Carla. Miss Andrews's daughter from a previous relationship. As the police vigil

continued at an undisclosed hospital forensic teams searched for the murder weapon alongside Coopers Hill, Alvechurch, where 25-year-old Mr Harvey was found dead with 16 stab wounds. Thirty officers questioned motorists at eight road blocks on the route taken by the couple.

West Mercia police are also questioning friends and relatives of the couple about their relationship, which has been described as "stormy and tempestuous". Although the couple planned to marry in summer, a close friend of Mr Harvey said: "Tracie was always throwing him out then taking him back. Their engagement has been off three times."

The detective leading the inquiry, Detective Superintendent Ian Johnston, would last night say only: "We wish to confirm that a 27-year-old woman was arrested and brought to the police station but we have not yet confirmed the identity of that person."

"It's still not clear when we will be in a position to interview her. We have not started to question her yet."

Miss Andrews made an emotional appeal to find the driver and passenger of a Ford Sierra car which she said chased them for three miles along country lanes after they left a pub.

The former model and barmaid, who appeared with stitches in a cut above a black eye, told how she had been hit in the face by the passenger of the car pursuing them. She described him as an overweight man "with stary eyes" whom she had seen repeatedly stab her fiancé.

Relatives of the couple were yesterday left confused by this latest twist in the murder hunt. Mr Harvey's father Kay said: "This is the vilest murder possible. I just want to see justice done and what I want to do is look into the eyes of my son's killer."

Detectives have taken a woman into custody. "There has been a lot of speculation, but we are trying to keep an open mind until something official is said," Mr Harvey added. He had sat beside Miss Andrews as she made her televised appeal.

Since the stabbing on December 1 police have been appealing for witnesses who either saw the car chase or the argument, which allegedly ended with Mr Harvey's death. A senior police source said yesterday: "We've had a good public response but there were no sightings of the incident as allegedly described."

Detectives also began to examine the timetable that Miss Andrews had given them in which she claimed that the couple left a pub at 9.50pm to drive three miles to their home but the police were not called until an hour later.

Miss Andrews was herself covered in blood and told police she had cradled her dying fiancé in her arms.



Stabbing victim Lee Harvey with his fiancée Tracie Andrews, who is now under police guard in hospital

Drug baron shot dead in gang war

By AUDREY MAGIER
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A DRUG baron nicknamed The Psycho was shot dead early yesterday in Dublin's latest gangland killing. Peter Joseph Judge, 41, was shot twice in the head as he sat in his car outside a pub.

Judge was one of four men controlling the Dublin drug scene and was himself suspected of murdering at least two men. He is the fifteenth person to have been murdered in contract-style killings in the Irish capital since 1994 when the IRA murdered Martin Cahill, the criminal godfather nicknamed The General.

After Cahill's death, the Dublin criminal underworld splintered into various gangs, one of which was responsible for the murder last June of the journalist Veronica Guerin. Judge, who deals in heroin, cannabis, amphetamines and Ecstasy, is not believed to have been involved in her death.

Judge had been to the Royal Oak pub in Finglas, north Dublin, on Saturday with a girlfriend. The two left at 12.15am and went to their Ford Fiesta in the car park. Mr Judge had barely started the engine when a masked man on a motorcycle fired through the window. He died instantly.

Match of the Day: Lynam and Albion

BY A STAFF REPORTER

BRIGHTON and Hove Albion, the troubled football club, has received an offer of help from Desmond Lynam.

The BBC sports presenter and a long-time Brighton fan telephoned BBC Radio 5 Live's Six-O-Six, presented by David Mellor, on Saturday, offering to act as mediator.

The problems at Brighton centre on the sale of the Goldstone Ground, which may leave the club homeless in June. Supporters' fears for the club's future have led to protest marches, boycotts and pitch invasions. The team occupies 92nd place (out of 92) in the Football League, went out of the FA Cup to a non-

league team, and is without a manager.

Lynam offered to mediate between Bill Archer, the club chairman, and a consortium that hopes to take over the club. "We would get them in a room and kick their backsides for a couple of hours and see if we could get something sorted out because things are looking so black that the club is going to die," Lynam told listeners.

"I called in absolute frustration, really," Lynam said yesterday. "I keep getting letters and calls from people who know my love for the club and I'm desperate to do something. I'm as mortified as they are—I've been racking my brains for two years."

Lynam was contacted shortly after the broadcast by David Davies of the Football Association, and invited to join discussions sponsored by the Football Association between all parties via the arbitration arm of the Confederation of British Industry.

Dick Knight, the leader of the consortium, speaking on yesterday's Gary Lineker programme on Radio 5, and John Bain of the Brighton Independent Supporters Association, welcomed Lynam's intervention but called for the FA to take stronger action.

Lynam: called show in absolute frustration

Royal divorcees together for Prince's carol service

BY ALAN HAMILTON

THE Prince and Princess of Wales were seen together for the first time yesterday since their divorce in August. They joined Prince William in Eton College Chapel for the annual Christmas festival of lessons and carols. The Prince, who is 14 and in his second year at the school, read one of the lessons.

They arrived separately at their elder son's school house and were welcomed inside by Andrew Gailey, the headmaster. The Princess drove herself to the school in a black BMW; the Prince arrived five minutes later as a passenger in a Vauxhall Cavalier. The couple then entered the chapel by a side door to avoid waiting photographers.

Prince William read: "The Prophet Micah foretells the glory of Bethlehem". Micah:

to proceed with their divorce. The Princess is thought unlikely to attend the Sandringham gathering this year. All eyes instead will be on whether the guest list numbers Sophie Rhys-Jones, who has been the girlfriend of Prince Edward for three years but who still appears to be in want of a proposal of marriage.

Miss Rhys-Jones is rumoured to be tired of waiting. Whether she appears this year will be an important clue to Prince Edward's future marital status.

Diana, Princess of Wales, meanwhile, will be the centre of attention today when she delivers a speech in London to the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations. Later she will fly to New York for a charity function.



The KLM Fokker on the edge of a foam-drenched runway at Heathrow yesterday after its port undercarriage collapsed on landing

Crash-landing delays hundreds of flights

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of flights to and from Heathrow Airport were delayed yesterday after the undercarriage of a twin-engined plane carrying 41 passengers and four crew collapsed on landing, blocking a runway.

More than 150 flights were delayed by at least two hours, others were cancelled and thousands of passengers were held at airports throughout Europe waiting for clearance to fly to Heathrow. Accident investigators carried out an inspection of the undercarriage.

Since the stabbing on December 1 police have been appealing for witnesses who either saw the car chase or the argument, which allegedly ended with Mr Harvey's death. A senior police source said yesterday: "We've had a good public response but there were no sightings of the incident as allegedly described."

Detectives also began to examine the timetable that Miss Andrews had given them in which she claimed that the couple left a pub at 9.50pm to drive three miles to their home but the police were not called until an hour later.

Miss Andrews was herself covered in blood and told police she had cradled her dying fiancé in her arms.

runway the port undercarriage buckled, tipping the aircraft on to its port wing while it was moving at about 60mph.

As soon as the plane had come to a halt the passengers were evacuated, with only one suffering a bruised toe as he stumbled from the escape chute.

The aircraft, built in 1991 and with no previous history of undercarriage trouble, was left on the edge of the runway, which had to be closed to both landing and departing aircraft.

The entire airport closed for a time as controllers sorted the arriving aircraft and held those intending to

take off. Both arriving and departing aircraft then had to use another runway, seriously reducing the airport's overall capacity. British Airways alone had to delay 30 flights by at least two hours and canceled three services to Manchester.

Sunday afternoon is one of the busiest times of the week for flights from and to continental Europe and dozens of pilots were ordered to wait where they were rather than attempt to come to Heathrow. The blocked runway was expected to be cleared by late last night, and most flights should be back to normal by today.



Son unveils memorial to head who never let his pupils down

BY JOANNA BALE

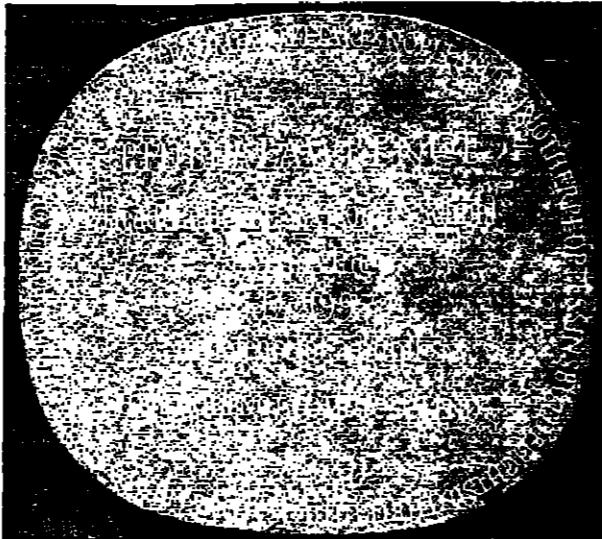
THE nine-year-old son of the murdered headmaster Philip Lawrence unveiled a plaque to his father yesterday on the first anniversary of his death.

In a moving ceremony outside the gates of St George's Roman Catholic School, Maida Vale, northwest London, Lucien Lawrence stepped onto a dais and smiled nervously as he pronounced: "Now I shall unveil the memorial to my daddy."

Helped by the Duchess of Kent, he then pulled a cord to reveal the plaque, which said his father "gave his life in defence of a pupil". Cardinal Basil Hume and Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, were among those who stood and applauded. Pupils attending the ceremony were visibly upset by the rekindled memories of Mr Lawrence's stabbing, many having seen their wounded headmaster staggering back through the school gates before collapsing and later dying in hospital.

Kamil Zulawski, 11, said: "He was a good man and good for the school. Now we must do our best to live up to his example."

In a service in the school's main hall, Cardinal Hume,



"... love takes no pleasure in other people's sins..."

tough he gave them hope and that he never let them down."

Referring to an inscription on the plaque from Corinthians, she added: "One year ago today, Philip died. What he will live on just as truth is eternal, so the words on the memorial to him form an unbroken circle."

Mr Lawrence was stabbed

by a 15-year-old boy as he tried to help one of his pupils who was being attacked by a gang of teenagers outside the school

gates. Earlier this year, an Old Bailey judge ordered Learo Chindamo to be detained indefinitely for the murder.

Mr Lawrence's three daughters, Maroushka, who read a psalm, Myfanwy and Unity, and his mother were at the service. Mrs Lawrence thanked the thousands of people who had given money for the memorial. "It is created from your generosity and from your prayers and gentle words. Without these,

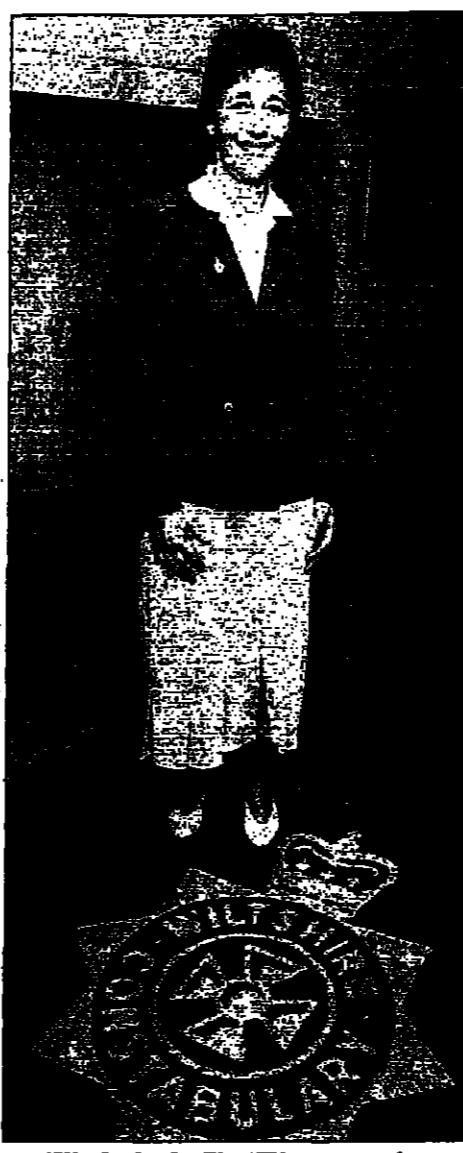
the children and I would have been lost," she said.

Mr Howard paid tribute to Mrs Lawrence for attempting to make something "meaningful and positive" from his death. "The bravery Frances has shown has inspired each of us who have seen it. More than that, it has touched the conscience of the nation. It was her choice that love and reason would triumph over hate and irrationality. She has decided that Philip's death can be an agency of change and healing in society. She has offered us her ideas for healing our society and she has given us a vision of regeneration."

Mr Howard recently launched an award scheme, as a result of Mrs Lawrence's initiative, to promote good citizenship among young people.

Although security was tight around the school, there was no obvious police guard for Lucien, who was the target of a failed abduction attempt by bogus social workers who called at his home in Ealing, west London, last week.

The Duchess of Kent, who is suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome, spoke of her friendship with the family since Mr Lawrence's death and of how he was a "shining example" to the world.



Elizabeth Neville: "Women are in a minority and that creates difficulties"

Women need middle ground, says newest police chief

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE forces still do not have enough women in their middle ranks at a time when opportunities for promotion have ceased to widen, Britain's newest woman chief constable says. Elizabeth Neville, appointed to lead the Wiltshire force, said women were sometimes shy about seeking promotion and there were fewer jobs available as superintendents.

Speaking as she began preparations to move from the deputy chief constable's seat in Northamptonshire, she said: "Women are in a minority and that creates its own difficulties. Promotions may settle down and level off instead of continuing to climb. The pool of officers to choose chief officers from is very small."

Wiltshire already has a woman chief constable, Pauline Clare. Senior women now meet during the year to discuss developments. Miss Neville, 43, an Oxford graduate, said women make up 14.5 per cent of police strength and a quarter of recruits, but this was a recent change.

She accepts that sexism and harassment exist, although she has never experienced them directly. They can be crushed with good personnel work and complaints systems, she said. The mother of two children, aged 10 and 12, she is divorced from another officer, now an assistant chief constable. She said: "My staff keep bringing me newspaper cuttings about 'divorcee and mother of two'. They never write that about men. I have got used to it."

Woman, 51, gives birth to her daughter's child

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE doctor who helped a 51-year-old grandmother to give birth to her own grandchild said yesterday the case was unlikely to be repeated.

John Webster, director of the Fertility Services Centre at BMI Park Hospital, Nottingham, said most women did not discover they were infertile until well into their 30s, by which time their own mother would be too old to act as a surrogate.

Mr Webster was speaking after Caitlin Langston was born last Thursday to her grandmother Edith Jones. It is the first time such a birth has occurred in Britain.

Mrs Jones, who went through the menopause five years ago, agreed to carry the baby for her daughter, Suzanne Langston, 22, who was born without a womb. Eggs were removed from Mrs Langston's ovaries, fertilised with sperm from her husband, and two embryos were implanted in her mother's womb.

The 5lb 3oz girl, who was born by Caesarean section at Darlington Memorial hospital, is therefore genetically its mother's. However, legally, Mrs Jones is Caitlin's mother and her name will appear on the birth certificate. But in six weeks Mrs Langston and her husband, Chris, can apply to the courts for a Parental Order.

that will make the baby officially theirs.

Mrs Jones, who admitted the pregnancy was more tiring than she had expected, said: "It is just wonderful to see Suzanne and Caitlin together. We have all waited a long time for this but it has been worth every minute."

Suzanne added: "The past few days have been out-of-this world — the most marvellous time of my life. I can still hardly believe I now have my very own baby girl."

The world's first surrogate grandmother, Pat Anthony, gave birth to triplets which she had carried for her daughter, Karen, in South Africa in 1988. Ray Kennedy, the triplets' grandfather, said yesterday they were "super, bouncy children" who were unaffected by the unusual circumstances of their birth.

A man removed a ten-inch tube left in his wife's body after an operation by following instructions given to him over the phone by a nurse. South Tyneside Healthcare NHS Trust has apologised to Gillian Robson of Byker, Tyne and Wear, who has been offered a financial settlement. Her husband Paul, an industrial engineer, was told he might be able to remove the tube after the hospital said it could not perform the procedure until the next day.

Should mothers have been told?

MEDICAL BRIEFING

A SERIES of legal actions by epileptic mothers against doctors and health authorities is due to start in the next few months. The mothers claim that their children's disabilities would have been avoided had they been warned of the dangers of treating their seizures with sodium valproate while they were pregnant.

A letter to *The Lancet* in 1986 analysed the increased risks of pregnant women having a child with congenital deformities to the spine if they had taken sodium valproate, marketed as Epilim, during the first three months of pregnancy.

Mention of a link between sodium valproate and congenital malformation had been made in other letters to medical journals since 1982. But it was the review in *The Lancet* which showed that the chance of having a baby with abnormalities to the spine, such as spina bifida, was increased fourfold. It is now recognised that children born to mothers taking sodium valproate also have an increased risk of having wide-apart eyes, a broad nose and varying degrees of physical and mental incapacity.

One unusual effect of sodium valproate is that in about 2 per cent of patients it makes their hair curl.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

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Families to...
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CORRUPTION



Delia Smith has been called "the Volvo of cuisine — safe, reliable and totally organised"

Families to hear how Dunblane gifts will be used

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

FAMILIES of victims of the Dunblane massacre will be told this week how some of the £7 million given by well-wishers is to be spent.

Three separate funds set up after the March 13 murders at Dunblane Primary School have collected £7.3 million between them. The largest, the Dunblane Fund, now stands at £4.5 million.

The Dunblane Fund trustees are expected to make an announcement possibly tomorrow, about their spending plans. They may also set a closing date for donations, which are still coming in.

Profits from the Dunblane single, a rerecording of the Bob Dylan song, 'Knockin' on Heaven's Door', which goes on sale today, will not be given to any of the tragedy funds. All proceeds from the sale of the song, featuring 14 Dunblane children, will go to Save the Children, Childline and the Children's Hospice Association of Scotland.

Trustees of the Dunblane Fund have commissioned two roses in memory of Gwen Mayor, the teacher who died,



Cook will ask about killer's Masonic links

Living dangerously as Mother Goose

By CAROL MIDGLEY

A HEALTH warning has been issued to Mother Goose, Cinderella and Dick Whittington. Doctors say the energetic nature of pantomime performances puts actors at much greater risk of injury such as hernias.

Dudley Rogg, a director at the British Hernia Centre in London, said the number of patients visiting his clinic "dramatically increased" during the pantomime season.

"It happens every year," Mr Rogg said. "We see an awful lot of actors coming in, it is really quite astonishing. Actors as a group are very macho, they have to leap and bound across the stage and hoist up their leading ladies."

Leading article, page 21

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CORBY TROUSER PRESS

TV and food brands are recipe for a chef's fortune

By ROBIN YOUNG

BRITAIN'S leading chefs are looking forward to becoming multimillionaires in a nation apparently obsessed with food yet increasingly incapable of cooking it; the chef is king, and cooking it.

The media exposure enjoyed by chefs is reaching extraordinary proportions. With some 30 regular cookery programmes on terrestrial television and almost double that number on cable and satellite, chefs are too busy racing from studio to studio to have much time for their restaurant stoves.

Antony Worrall-Thompson, whose London restaurants include 190 Queensgate, dell'Ugo and Zee, said yesterday: "I was on 178 different programmes last year, yet I am not really up there at the top like the current favourites, *Two Fat Ladies*. Now they are really mega."

The most popular television chefs earn tens of thousands of pounds for each episode of their series and can add up to £100,000 from subsequent book sales. Advertising contracts are likely to be even more lucrative, with some estimates running as high as £500,000 for a national cam-



Fat ladies: Clarissa Dickson Wright and Jennifer Paterson

paign over a long period. Occasional television appearances net only hundreds of pounds.

The most commercially successful of the current crop of British chefs is Gary Rhodes, who recently quit the Greenhouse and People's Palace restaurants in London for a highly paid job with the industrial caterers Gardner Merchant and a lucrative contract advertising Tate & Lyle on television. His *Rhodes round Britain* television

business ran into money problems, he is further bankrolled by his *Floyd on Bread* endorsement which appears on bakery products sold in Safeway stores.

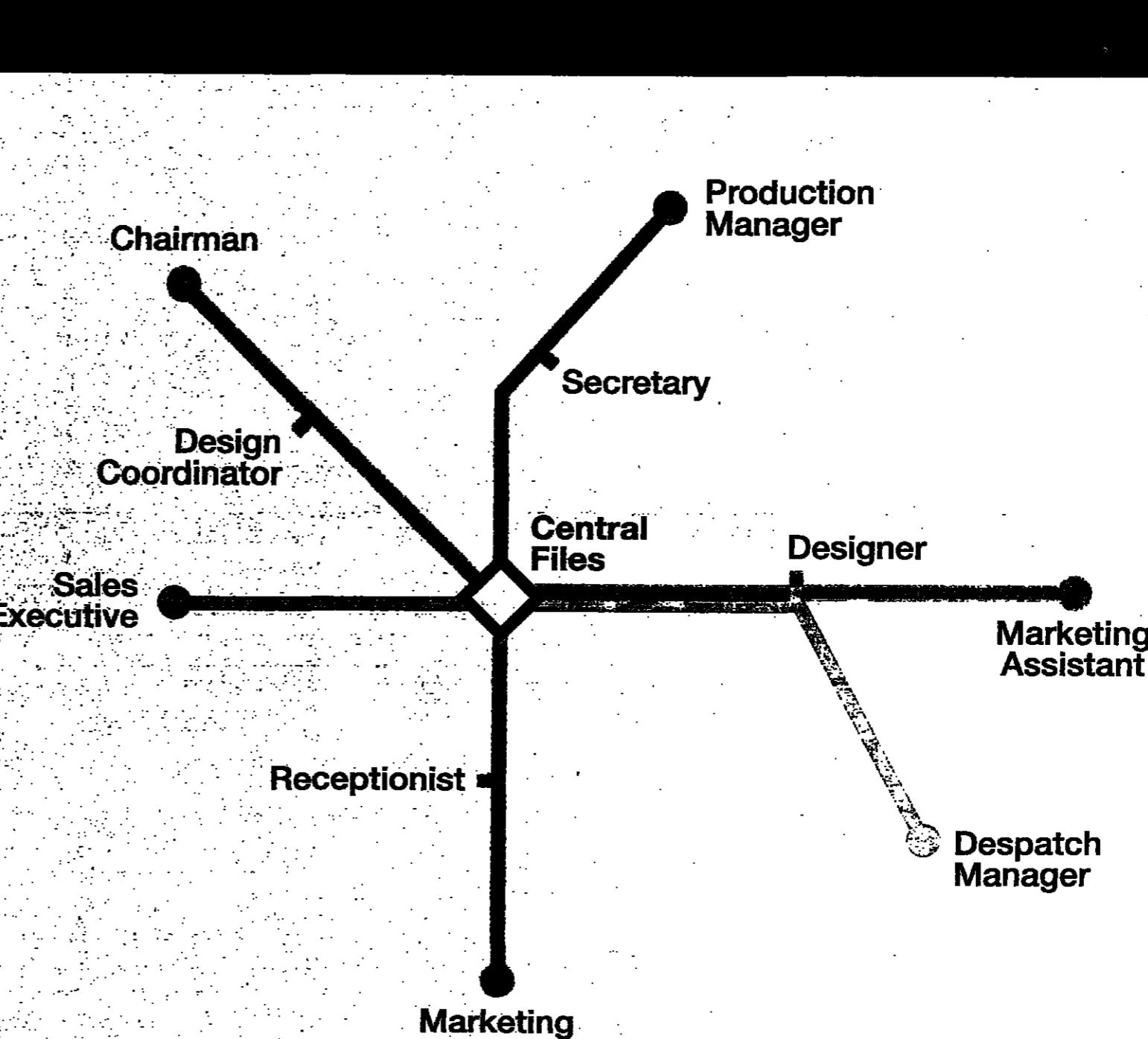
That is the way the future is likely to go, according to the advertising agency Leo Burnett. It has researched public attitudes to food and chefs and has decided that television chefs are "national brands in the making".

Mike Ainsworth, Burnett's business development director, said: "Nearly a fifth of the population cannot cook and are proud of it. They do not want to cook, but they still know and trust Gary Rhodes, Keith Floyd and Delia Smith. Smith, he says, is the Volvo of British cuisine — safe, reliable, and totally organised". With her magazine tie-up with Sainsbury's she is, he believes, one of Britain's most fully developed chef-brands.

Others well-heeled in the business include the Roux Brothers (Michel is consultant to British Airways and Albert to enterprises as far away as Moscow), Raymond Blanc (consultant to Virgin Atlantic) and Anton Mosimann, who has an outside catering business and a range of fine foods and cookery products.



Gary Rhodes: his laddish presentation makes him familiar even to viewers who never cook



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Sunday shoppers join £23bn festive spending spree

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

SHOPS were last night counting takings substantially up on last year's, after Britain went on what traders called the biggest pre-Christmas shopping spree in almost a decade.

Not since the 1980s have shops been so full, with customers prepared to dig deeper than ever into their cash and credit. Out-of-town shopping malls reported takings at least 15 per cent up on last year, even though the number of shoppers was only 3 per cent more.

Although the Christmas rush appeared to have started later this year, it gathered speed yesterday as millions of stores took advantage of the permitted six hours' Sunday opening. John Bryson, manager of Metro Centre, Britain's biggest out-of-town shopping mall, near Gateshead, said that at least 30,000 people passed through the doors after they opened at 11am. They spent an average of £125 each, compared with last year's £110, he said.

At the Lakeside shopping complex at Thurrock, Essex, the earliest shoppers arrived

soon after 7am for the 11am start. Chris Fear, the manager, said: "The car parks have been full every day for weeks and both Saturday and Sunday were no exception. Most nights we have been kicking people out at the 10pm closing time and we have done about 40 per cent of our business after 5.30pm."

A survey suggests that Britain will spend £23.5 billion on presents, food and drink this year, £700 million more than last. The study, for the property consultants Healey and Baker, found that children could expect to receive presents worth about £7 billion, compared with £6.6 billion on adult presents and £6.9 billion on food and drink.

The Welsh and Scots are the most generous to their children, expecting to spend £202 and £200 a head respectively on presents for them, compared to the national average of £155. The Welsh indicate they will spend most in total at £650, £133 more than the average. Londoners expect to spend the least at £459.

The Welsh also topped the list on food, saying they will

spend £17, while Scots were at the bottom, predicting £91 against a national average of £108.

Retailers say there appears to have been a return to high-quality, high-priced gifts. So many personal computers and electronic games are being sold that major industrialists and military equipment manufacturers are said to face a shortage of microchips.

Chris Ward, a technology consultant, said: "During the summer, the price fell as production increased. But now the price has gone up by 50 per cent because of the huge increase in demand from individuals. It is very hard for aircraft manufacturers or missile contractors to obtain sufficient supply of the more powerful 16 or 32 megabyte chips."

The toy most in demand is a model of Buzz Lightyear, one of the heroes of the Disney film Toy Story. So many have been sold that many toy shops have run out of supplies. Harrods in central London said: "We have been told we will have no more in stock before Christmas."

RAF ace defends Bader from TV flak

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE most successful Spitfire pilot of the Second World War hit back yesterday at wartime associates of Sir Douglas Bader who criticise the Battle of Britain ace in a new television documentary.

Air Vice-Marshal Johnnie Johnson, who shot down 38 German fighters, described Bader as "the greatest Englishman I ever knew".

A "warts and all" documentary on the famous pilot who, after losing both legs in a flying accident, flew in the Battle of Britain with tin ones, is to be shown tonight on Channel 4 as part of *Secret Lives*. Johnnie Johnson was a 22-year-old pilot officer during the Battle of Britain when Bader was his wing commander.

The television documentary portrays Bader as a bloody-minded egomaniac who tried to land it over his fellow officers. Most of his fellow prisoners in Colditz, where Bader was held after being captured by the Germans, were said to have hated him because of his "wilful pranks".

Air Vice-Marshal Johnson, 81, is one of the few surviving Spitfire pilots who flew with Bader and he remembers him with awe and affection. "I would compare him with Drake and Nelson. He was a splendid man."

Alex Ross, Bader's medical orderly at Colditz, says he had to carry Bader up and down flights of stone steps in the prison every day and was never thanked. He also says he was prevented by Bader from leaving Colditz in an exchange of medical personnel.

Air Vice-Marshal Johnson said yesterday: "Who is this medical orderly? I've never heard of him and what gives him the right to criticise someone like Bader?"

He added: "He was an inspirational leader. He had the qualities of leadership that made it possible to do what we did." He admitted that Bader could sometimes have a rough tongue if pilots made mistakes. "But it was soon forgotten."

Nigel Griffiths, Labour's consumer affairs spokesman, said he would write to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, asking for Splooch to be banned.

A spokesman for the Portman Group, the brewing industry's self-regulatory body, said it had contacted the British Retail Consortium to advise its members to consider whether they should sell the product: "We would urge the manufacturers to rethink the packaging. There is nothing wrong with Splooch in itself but we are against cartoon-type packaging which might be attractive to adolescents."

bread and that is a considerable disincentive.

"This product takes a lot of patience and planning, like any home-brew kit. We will take on board all the comments although we are unlikely to withdraw it."

The company also produces beer-making kits which, like Splooch, are not covered by licensing laws. A Splooch kit makes the equivalent of 27 standard 330ml bottles containing 5 per cent alcohol by volume. It also includes instructions saying that adding the booster to wines and beers could produce an alcohol content of up to 15 per cent.



Air Vice-Marshal Johnson, top left, with Bader in 1982, three months before he died, and Bader climbing into his Spitfire in 1945 for a victory flypast

Quiz has solicitors guessing who broke the bed

By RICHARD FORD

A SCURRILOUS Christmas quiz disclosing sexual liaisons and drug-taking within City of London legal firms has triggered a guessing game among solicitors anxious to identify the prime suspects.

The questionnaire has been compiled from gossip gathered during the past year from solicitors willing to dish the dirt on colleagues and rivals. The 25-question quiz published in *Legal Business* magazine highlights alleged sexual antics, drunkenness and drug-taking but offers no prizes for the correct answers.

Question 1 asks: "Which City firm's chief executive stood up to make a speech at MIPIM [a trade fair] this year and promptly fell over because he was so drunk?"

Another asks which partner took a secretary to his home in Islington, north London, and proceeded to break the bed. The magazine's readers are also asked which partner was allegedly discovered in *flagrante delicto* in the lavatory of a Birmingham restaurant.

Too difficult? Then the magazine asked which partner in a City firm withdrew thousands of pounds from his bank, took the money home and rolled around naked in it, or which partner declared to his colleagues that he had made so much money in his last deal he was going to have a vital part of his anatomy cast in gold.

Or there are the questions asking at which law firm's party a journalist was offered cocaine, and which solicitor was arrested for dealing in Ecstasy.

Catrina Griffiths, editor of the magazine, said yesterday that the quiz was a bit of light relief, and that because lawyers had to be so controlled in court or in dealing with clients, they had a tendency to let their hair down when off-duty. "There are always two or three partners in most firms who are, shall we say, more experimental and wild in their behaviour than the rest."

Ms Griffiths said she had received no complaints but had been surprised by the number of people calling her wanting the answers.

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Food poison
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Makers defend kit that puts a punch into pop

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE makers of a do-it-yourself "alcopop" kit rejected demands yesterday for it to be withdrawn from shops, where it can be bought by children.

The alcohol-booster Splooch turns soft drinks into the equivalent of strong lager. On the front of the £4.99 kit is a cartoon logo showing two eyes looking the worse for drink.

Richard Danby, technical director of the makers, Confidential Wine Experts in Norwich, said: "It is intended for the alcopop market. It is meant to be the home-brew equivalent but we are certainly not targeting under-age drinkers. It takes ten days to

brew and that is a considerable disincentive.

"This product takes a lot of patience and planning, like any home-brew kit. We will take on board all the comments although we are unlikely to withdraw it."

The company also produces beer-making kits which, like Splooch, are not covered by licensing laws. A Splooch kit makes the equivalent of 27 standard 330ml bottles containing 5 per cent alcohol by volume. It also includes instructions saying that adding the booster to wines and beers could produce an alcohol content of up to 15 per cent.

A spokesman for the Portman Group, the brewing industry's self-regulatory body, said it had contacted the British Retail Consortium to advise its members to consider whether they should sell the product: "We would urge the manufacturers to rethink the packaging. There is nothing wrong with Splooch in itself but we are against cartoon-type packaging which might be attractive to adolescents."

Court plea to cut £20m police bill for damages

By STEWART TENDERL
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND YARD is going to the Court of Appeal today in an attempt to cut back on the damages awarded against the Metropolitan Police in a series of cases. The Yard is also seeking guidelines for juries hearing actions against the police.

Two cases will be heard over two days in the court of the Master of the Rolls Lord Woolf, and lawyers for Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, could put forward challenges on another seven cases.

The actions come after mounting concern by Sir Paul and senior officers at the scale of damages. In 1995 Scotland Yard paid out £1.5 million in damages, compared with £93,000 in 1986. Awards and costs are estimated to have cost the Metropolitan Police £20 million in the past ten years.

The Yard is challenging the award of £220,000 in March to Kenneth Hsu, 32, a hairdresser, who said he was wrongly arrested and assaulted after refusing to let police into his home in Streatham, south-west London, without a search warrant. It is also challenging the £51,000 for Claudette Thompson, 30, in June last year for assault and battery and false imprisonment.

David Pannick, QC, is appearing for Scotland Yard and the cases are the first of a series which could stretch into next year. The legal argument is likely to centre on the use of exemplary damages to punish and deter.

In a number of the cases where large awards have been made no action was taken against the officers concerned. The Yard would argue the awards were excessive.

Further cases that could go before the court include the record award of £302,000 to Daniel Coswell, 29, after he was hit with a truncheon while handcuffed and £150,000 in June to two Kurdish political refugees, Haci Bozkurt and Baki Ates.

Lawyers join forces to help child-sex victims

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LAWYERS led by Cherie Booth, QC, are spearheading a campaign to help child-sex victims through undercover investigations of paedophile networks and reforms to criminal trials.

They have lent their backing to the Justice for Children project run by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and seeking to raise £3 million for its work.

The lawyers steering the campaign — to be launched officially in January next month — include Sir Stephen Brown, the head of the High Court family division, Lord Borrie, formerly Director General of Fair Trading, and Robert Ayling, chief executive of British Airways and a lawyer. The City law firms Lovell White Durrant, and Macfarlanes are also represented.

A programme of action is already under way. The NSPCC has a small team of social workers involved in undercover investigations of organised paedophile networks in London, in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police, but they have a limited budget and urgently need greater funding.

With the backing of the lawyers, the Justice for Children project is also making a training video for judges on how to deal with children in sex-abuse cases. The video, developed with the Judicial Studies Board but with substantial funding from the NSPCC, will be launched in the new year.

The lawyers are also supporting moves to secure reforms to the trial process.

profession, said: "Many children feel that the court ordeal is worse than the original abuse. The extent of the problem is massive — we see one paedophilia case in chambers a week. And one paedophile can do harm to perhaps six to ten children."

She acknowledged there was concern, even hostility, within some quarters of the legal profession. "Some of the criminal Bar, while sympathetic, are also concerned about not putting the interests of justice, the interests of a fair trial, at risk," she said.

The NSPCC said much had been done to help to prepare children for the court; now work was needed to prepare courts for children. Neil Humber, London regional director, welcomed the involvement of the legal profession: "It is obviously partly about fund-raising but also about promoting our policies as well as backing operational work."

Last week the charity Childline reported the trauma of many who report incidents. There were about 54,000 protection referrals for sexual abuse in 1994 but fewer than 500 convictions.

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Quiz has
solicitor
guessing
who broke
the bed

C of E halts fall in congregations to overtake Catholics

BY RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

SUNDAY attendance at the Church of England is set to overtake that of the Roman Catholic Church for the first time in recent history. Figures for the congregations for England and Wales suggest that the Anglicans will nose ahead by about 1,000.

Although the Church of England is the established church and still baptises, marries and buries most of the country's Christian population, it has traditionally lagged behind in the number of people in the pews.

Tables in the *Catholic Directory 1997* show a drop of 55,000 in the average Mass attendance between 1994 and 1995, more than the number of churchgoing Catholics in the whole of Wales. While 1.19 million went in 1994, this fell to 1.13 million last year.

Figures for last year are not yet available for the Church of England. The latest attendance figures for England and Wales, for 1994, give an average Sunday turnout of 1.16 million. That is still marginally below the Catholic figures for 1994 but statisticians say the differing rate of decline in each church means that the Anglicans will inch ahead this year or next.

Now members of both churches are anxiously awaiting the Anglican Church figures for last year, due to be published early in the new year.

The new Catholic Church figures show that the number of Catholic baptisms in 1995

million in the late 1960s. Churchgoing in the Church of England was then at 1.6 million. Figures for Wales are not available but are thought to have stood at about 120,000, leaving the Anglicans far behind the Catholics.

The Right Rev Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Wakefield, said: "The Church of England is livelier and spiritually more healthy than it has been for some time. It gives me no joy to witness declining numbers in our sister Catholic Church. The denominations need each other to be strong so that together we can witness to the gospel in an unbelief world."

Monsignor Kieran Conry, of the Catholic Media Office, said: "I am pleased for the Anglicans if numbers are picking up. We have had more people in church for some years but that was more to do with the decline in Anglican practice than any growth in the Catholic mass attendance."

Anglicans, however, believe their decline has bottomed out and figures over the past few years have shown attendance remaining roughly steady.

In the Catholic Church, where weekly mass attendance was once considered compulsory, churchgoing peaked at more than two

Food poison death toll rises to nine as shop staff fall sick

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

A NINTH pensioner has died in Scotland's food poisoning epidemic, which is now affecting 386 people. The latest victim, an elderly woman who has not been named, died after being released from Falkirk and District Royal Infirmary on Friday.

She had been recovering from the *E. coli* 0157 infection and her condition had improved enough for her to go to a nursing home.

It emerged over the weekend that seven staff at the award-winning butcher's shop thought to be the source of the food poisoning outbreak have shown symptoms of being infected with the *E. coli* 0157 bacteria.

North Lanarkshire environmental health officers said the workers became infected after the outbreak and were not carrying the bug while serving in the Wishaw shop of John M Barr & Son. Mr Barr employs about 40 staff.

Out of the 386 people now affected by apparent food poisoning, 204 have now been confirmed as having *E. coli* 0157. Sixteen adults being treated at Monklands Hospital, Airdrie, and an elderly woman transferred to Stobhill Hospital from Falkirk and District Royal Infirmary, are seriously ill.

Lanarkshire Health Board launched a health awareness campaign this weekend to warn the public how they can best minimise the risk of food poisoning. Thousands of leaflets

lets, *E. coli* — *Advice To You*, have been distributed in Lanarkshire, the area worst affected by the outbreak, at football grounds, shopping precincts, markets, hospitals and in churches.

The 11-point message, which includes practical advice on storage of meat and personal hygiene, will be reinforced by adverts in local newspapers this week.

Health experts believe there is no longer any potential risk from the 82 outlets supplied by the Wishaw butcher, providing no cooked meats or meat products from Barr's shop remain on these premises. Affected stores are said to have been thoroughly cleaned and the environmental health department is "satisfied that the potential risk of the transmission of *E. coli* 0157 from having stocked Mr Barr's products no longer exists".

It has emerged meanwhile that an antibiotic to the *E. coli* bacteria, developed in Canada, is due to begin trials in Britain next year. Lanarkshire Health Board said, however, that the current outbreak featured a particularly severe strain of *E. coli* and it was not yet known if the antibiotic would be effective against it.

On Teesside this weekend a 90-year-old woman infected with *E. coli* 0157 died. It was also confirmed that another pensioner on Teesside was being treated for the bacteria. Neither case is linked to the Scottish epidemic.

Bank sued over home's negative equilibrium

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A WOMAN is suing Barclays Bank and its surveyors over a hole that threatens to engulf her home. Already part of Jane Britton's garage has slipped into it and she has spent £4,000 tipping tons of rubble into the hole to prevent her three-bedroomed house going the same way.

Problems began within weeks of the family moving into the £85,000 house in Ripon, north Yorkshire, two years ago. The front garden subsided, leaving a hole 20ft wide and 10ft deep.

Mrs Britton, 51, had not been told that the seven-year-old house had been built over gypsum deposits, which disolve on contact with water. She said: "I asked for a structural survey; the bank's surveyor didn't spot it. When I first saw it, I just screamed."

Despite the rubble the hole keeps reappearing, each time bigger than before. Mrs



A little help but a long way to go: a weekend visitor reaches to make a donation at the British Museum

Job fears at British Museum

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE British Museum may make job cuts and slash departmental budgets after ruling out admission charges in the immediate future.

The trustees met at the weekend to discuss a report from Andrew Edwards, a former deputy secretary in the Treasury, which said that the museum's finances were in disarray and predicted a £25 million shortfall over the next three years. He recommended an admission fee of £5 or £6 to raise £8 million a year.

A statement from the trustees said they had rejected admission fees for the time being but "the introduction cannot be ruled out". They added: "All areas of expenditure and income generation are being appraised, including staff levels. It is inevitable that there will have to be some curtailment of activity but the trustees are determined to continue to provide a good level of service."

□ The new British Library may consider charges. Dr Brian Lang, chief executive, is reported to have told staff of his intention to investigate the implications of charging.

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Falkland Islands fear for future under Labour

FROM MICHAEL BINION, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, IN PORT STANLEY

TODAY is Battle Day in the Falkland Islands, the anniversary of the fierce naval engagement in 1914 when the Royal Navy destroyed a large German fleet under the command of Admiral von Spee moored off the Falklands.

But as the islanders celebrate with parades, games and a public holiday, many are wondering whether they will soon have to fight a new battle with a Labour government determined to nudge them into closer relations with Argentina. Their worries have been provoked by a statement from Tony Lloyd, a Labour foreign affairs spokesman, during a recent visit here when he urged the islanders to forge closer relations with Buenos Aires and prepare for a normalisation of contacts.

He also condemned as "an absurd anomaly" the current ban on Argentine passport holders entering the islands. Mr Lloyd's remarks touched raw nerves. Older

Falklanders, with bitter memories of the 1982 invasion, are determined to have nothing to do with Argentina. They see no reason why anyone holding an Argentine passport should be allowed to land as long as the Menem Government makes a constitutional claim on the islands' sovereignty.

"If someone is coming to steal everything in your house, you don't let him in by the front door" is a common sentiment.

Many are nervous, however, that a future Labour government would push harder than the Conservatives for normalisation. They also recognise that, although Labour has insisted that the islanders' wishes for self-determination are paramount, they do not want this distant dependent territory to be seen as a "Tory trophy". Margaret Thatcher's triumphant identification with the Falkland cause makes most people here wary of Labour.

Yesterday, however, the church ceremonies were as robust as ever, touching as always on the other key date here, June 14 or Liberation Day. Volunteers from the Falkland Islands Defence Force drew up a guard of honour around the 1914 War memorial as Richard Ralf, the Governor, in plumes and full ceremonial dress, reassured Britain's commitment and laid a memorial wreath. The little force, of around 90 men and four women has no doubt that it would play a vital role in defending Port Stanley, were there ever to be another invasion.

Most islanders, however, see no imminent threat and are comforted by the daily sight of RAF Tornado jets streaking across the bleak moorland on training flights from the base at Mount Pleasant. Commanders of the three British services based there see no immediate danger from Argentina, but say that without 24-hour radar surveillance and constant preparedness, hardline nationalists in Argentina might be tempted once again to mount a military expedition.

Falkland Islanders are more worried by a peaceful civilian expedition of tourists. Already a large number of Argentinians come here travelling on other passports. The hardline councillors say that allowing free entry to anyone would create a dangerous precedent and give up the Falklands' only leverage.

There is even a lingering resentment that a second visit here by the close relatives of more than 250 Argentinians buried on a windswept hill near Goose Green is to go ahead next month. The families will be kept hidden away in a hotel disused for two years and will not be allowed to stay more than one night.

"It's far too early to let them all come back," one islander said. He said many people wanted to see whether the new agreement with Buenos Aires on fishing and oil exploration would work properly before further normalisation could be contemplated.

The protesters also obstructed stock exchange staff and officials trying to enter the

Small investors protest outside the stock exchange in Dhaka yesterday over the sudden fall in share prices. They are demanding intervention by the state

Protest closes Dhaka bourse

FROM AGENCIE FRANCE-PRESSE IN DHAKA

A DEMONSTRATION by roadside traders yesterday outside the Dhaka Stock Exchange forced the suspension of trading for the second consecutive day, officials said.

"Trading in the bourse has been suspended because brokers could not turn up due to the continued sit-in demonstration by the traders," an official in Dhaka said.

The protesters also obstructed stock exchange staff and officials trying to enter the

bourse building in Dhaka's Motijheel commercial district.

The unauthorised roadside market traders began their sit-in on Saturday to press their demands to revive the share market to its previous bullish trading. The traders, aggrieved by a big slide in share prices, blamed brokers for manipulating the market and demanded action.

They also demanded transparency in stock exchange trading and the inclusion of

government representatives and roadside market traders on the bourse council.

The composite price index of the bourse closed at 2,618.35 points, down 1.83 per cent or 48.80 points, at the start of the week on Saturday, when trading had to be suspended.

□ Police drive Health officials vaccinated millions of Bangladeshi children yesterday in the campaign to stamp out polio by inoculating a total of 20 million children. (Reuters)



Falkland Islanders fear a second Argentine invasion

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Forgery charge in cave art dispute

FROM ADAM SAGE
IN PARIS

A FRENCH official has been charged with forgery amid accusations of a state-orchestrated plot to defraud potholers who uncovered the world's most spectacular set of prehistoric cave paintings.

Patrick Béghain, 52, was last week accused of falsifying documents in an attempt to demonstrate that the French Government should reap financial benefits from the 30,000-year-old Chauvet cave in the Ardèche region. He denies the charge.

The cave contains the most extensive collection of prehistoric art yet found, including 600 vivid paintings of mammoths, reindeer, bison, panthers and two rhinoceroses locked in head-to-head combat. With its potential as a multi-million franc tourist attraction, "la grotte Chauvet", 40 miles northwest of Avignon, is at the centre of a legal imbroglio involving the Culture Ministry, the potholers who revealed its existence, and local landowners.

Observers say it will remain closed for some time as a multitude of cases come before the courts. The principal action was brought against the French state by Jean-Marie Chauvet, the man who stumbled upon the cavern while potholing with friends on Christmas Eve in 1994.

A national archaeological service employee, M. Chauvet says there are "no words to describe the unimaginable scale of walls completely covered with paintings". He says he should enjoy a share of the benefits from the sale of photographs and, possibly, future tourist revenue.

The Culture Ministry disagrees, saying he should get nothing because he works for the state, which was thus responsible for the discovery and its financial spin-offs. M. Béghain, head of the regional directorate of cultural affairs, produced a document to show that M. Chauvet had been on a government mission at the time of his find.

But last week, the Lyons-based investigating judge, Gilbert Emery, charged the official with falsifying the document, lending weight to M. Chauvet's claims of a plot.

African delegation wins truce

Bangui Rebel soldiers and forces loyal to the Central African Republic's President, Ange-Félix Patasse, have agreed to a two-week truce and to allow time for the introduction of a ten-point peace plan, a delegation of African leaders said here.

Under the truce, which takes immediate effect, the sides retain their weapons and will remain in the positions they now hold, pending the application of the peace plan.

Sources close to the republic's ruling MLPF party say about 100 people have died since the unrest began on November 15. The mutineers wanted the resignation of President Patasse, whom they accuse of high treason. (Reuters)

5,000 arrested

Delhi: More than 5,000 people were detained after protests as Jayaram Jayalalitha, 48, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu state, was arrested in Madras on a corruption charge. (Reuters)

Memorial call

Berlin: Gays here have called for a memorial to mark the Nazis' attempt to wipe out homosexuals. Estimates put the number of "pink triangle" victim at between 10,000 and 15,000. (Reuters)

Ministers quit

Kathmandu: The Government of Sher Bahadur Deuba, Nepal's Prime Minister, appeared in jeopardy after seven ministers resigned and opposition Communists demanded a no-confidence vote. (Reuters)

Athlete deported

Jerusalem: A weightlifter on the Israeli Olympic team who is from Siberia, is being deported for fraudulently obtaining citizenship by paying an Israeli woman to marry him. (AP)

Hanging on

Tokyo: Japan plans to put 20 stationary airships 12½ miles up in the stratosphere as radio relay stations for mobile telephones as a mountainous country, a newspaper reported. (AFP)

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Clinton claims fall of two million in people on welfare

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton has hailed and claimed credit for a fall of 2.1 million in the number of people receiving welfare since he took office four years ago, in a move which will reignite controversy over welfare reforms.

"This is the biggest drop in the welfare rolls in history," he said on Saturday in his weekly radio address. The figures also showed that nearly three quarters of a million people have stopped receiving welfare — income-related benefits paid by federal or state government — in the past seven months.

The figures come as the White House prepares to bat-

tle with the Republican-backed Congress over the welfare reform Bill which Mr Clinton signed in September, having vetoed it twice. Critics of the new laws, which remove benefits from people who do not seek work, say they are too harsh on the poorest members of society.

However, Republicans and Democrats, both committed to trying to balance the government budget, are seeking ways to cut spending on federal entitlements. Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, gave a warning on Friday that prompt action was needed to rescue

the social security system from bankruptcy. Mr Greenspan, who headed a 1983 commission which temporarily rescued social security from imminent collapse, said that the approaching retirement of the "baby boomers" would worsen the problem. Whatever was done should be done soon to minimise the cost, he argued in a speech in Philadelphia.

It also emerged yesterday that a federal advisory panel studying the looming problems in funding social security is sharply split in its conclusions after two years of study.

Seven of the 13 members

recommended replacing part of social security with compulsory private savings. Other members argue that investing social security funds in the stock market, rather than government bonds, would earn enough extra money, albeit at higher risk, to make up the predicted shortfall.

Although Mr Clinton vigorously criticised the Bill in its passage, he attributes the fall in welfare recipients to the policy at the heart of the new law: allowing states to step outside the federal framework of benefits to experiment with their own schemes.

That policy, put in place in advance of the Bill, in a handful of states, has led to sharp falls in the numbers claiming welfare. Mr Clinton, who pledged when elected in 1993 to "end welfare as we know it", welcomed the 41 per cent drop in Wisconsin welfare rolls and 38 per cent in Indiana rolls.

However, the greater test of the new legislation will be whether people who have been forced off the welfare rolls can find jobs. Mr Clinton said: "This is just the beginning of reform. Now we have to create a million jobs by giving businesses incentives to hire people off welfare."

Baby boomers' bill, page 46

'Corporate wife' in \$49m divorce case

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE "corporate wife" of a General Electric executive is seeking half of his estimated \$98 million (£60 million) fortune in a divorce case, arguing that she put as much work into his career as he did.

Lorna Wendt, 53, says that during the couple's 31-year marriage she performed such company services as hosting dinner parties and organising trips abroad, offering advice on job applicants and socialising with VIPs, giving tips on shopping to the wives of employees, and even babysitting their children.

Describing herself as "the ultimate hostess", Mrs Wendt told a court in Connecticut: "I took my job very seriously."

Gary Wendt, 54, is the head of GE's Capital Services unit and has been mentioned as a possible successor to Jack Welch as head of the whole GE empire. Claiming that he is only worth \$52 million, he has offered his wife \$8 million, plus \$250,000 a year.

"I know what Lorna's needs are, and I want her to be able to live very, very comfortably after we're divorced, and I think that's the kind of number that should allow her to do that," he said in a deposition obtained by *The Wall Street Journal*.

Experts say Mrs Wendt has an unusually strong case which could mark a breakthrough for the wives of the super-rich, who are usually awarded far less than half the estate under an unofficial doctrine that "enough is enough".

When Mr Wendt graduated from Harvard Business School, the dean gave Mrs Wendt and other business school wives a P-H degree, for "Put Hubby Through" — a certificate she has now introduced as evidence in the divorce case.

Mrs Wendt says the question is not how much money she needs from her husband, but how much she deserves as a partner in his career.



Castro promise of Communist future

the 21st century. He told those at the ceremony: "In the 21st century the destiny of the country will be in the hands of men and women who are as firm as us, as patriotic, as anti-imperialist, as Communists and as united as us."

Although the speeches focused on the

ton — the anniversary of the general's death in Cachau, near Havana, was also a reminder of Cuba's resistance to European meddling in its affairs.

Last week the European Union approved a policy on Cuba, demanding greater respect for human rights and democratic reforms as a condition for European economic co-operation.

Last month Cuba withdrew its approval for Spain's new Ambassador, José Codériz, in protest against what it called Spanish interference in its affairs.

Internet user on sex charge

BY JAMES BONE

AN IVY LEAGUE scientist from a well-connected New York family has been charged with torturing and sexually assaulting a student he had met on the Internet.

Police say Oliver Jovanovic, 30, a doctoral candidate at Columbia University, tied up and gagged his victim before burning her with hot candle wax during a 20-hour ordeal. Mr Jovanovic also allegedly bit the woman's breast while showing her pictures of mutilated bodies.

At his flat in Upper Manhattan, police found reading material about the cannibal killer Jeffrey Dahmer and books with pictures of corpses and hermaphrodites. His computer was also seized as evidence, despite Mr Jovanovic's protest that he was soon due to defend his PhD.

He met his alleged victim, a 20-year-old philosophy student, in a computer "chat room" last month. The two arranged to meet for a dinner date. Afterwards she agreed to watch videos in his flat where the alleged attack then took place.

His lawyer says Mr Jovanovic is not guilty of aggravated sexual assault, a charge carrying a maximum jail sentence of 25 years.

Japanese Princess laments media 'distortion'

FROM AGENCIE FRANCE-PRESSE IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S Crown Princess Masako has hit back at the foreign and domestic media for what she called a distorted portrayal of her life behind the walls of the palace, but admitted she had found it hard to conform.

For Princess Masako, it has been a year of great media attention focusing on public disappointment with her somewhat reclusive lifestyle and on whether she will produce an heir to the Chrysanthemum Throne.

When she first got married many thought she would become a new role model for Japanese women, breaking the traditional conservative mould. But she rapidly fell in with palace protocol.

In the interview she admitted

she had found it hard to conform. "I struggle at times in harmonising or striking a balance between the traditional way of a Crown Princess and the way I feel," she said.

The Princess, who served at the Foreign Ministry after being educated at three top universities — Harvard, Tokyo and Oxford — gave only one example of the type of media coverage she disliked.

"There was a story which said that I am seen only when I ride a train or a car and that I rarely appear in public," Princess Masako said, in an apparent reference to a US newspaper report. "Is it really

so? Isn't it a little too exaggerated?"

The Princess also turned on Japanese weekly magazines, which feature celebrity gossip, and particularly royal affairs.

"I often see them, pursue arguments ... centring on unfounded speculation about the Imperial Family, the Imperial Household Agency and myself and carry sensational headlines," she said.

With unusual candour Prince Akishino, the second son of Emperor Akihito, denied ten days ago reports that his frequent trips to Thailand were related to extra-marital affairs there.



Masako has fallen in with palace protocol

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Security Council to vet African rivals for 'job from hell'

BY WILLIAM SHAWCROSS

THERE are now four African candidates named by their various countries to succeed Boutros Boutros Ghali as Secretary-General of the United Nations.

They are Amara Essy, the Ivory Coast Foreign Minister; Hamid Algabid, the former Prime Minister of Niger and secretary-general of the Islamic Conference; Ahmedou Ould Abdallah, of Mauritania, a former UN envoy in Burundi, and Kofi Annan of Ghana, now head of the UN's peacekeeping department.

Other African names may yet emerge. It is likely that a first informal straw poll will be taken in the Security Council today. A decision on the next leader of the organisation needs to be taken before the delegates return home on December 17.

Whoever wins will have a job from hell. The UN suffers from a huge financial crisis, a crisis in perceptions around the world, and a crisis of morale within the organisation.

The new Secretary-General must effect a reconciliation with the United States, where the UN is broadly distrusted, and which owes it a fortune. He or she must also reconcile Third World countries to root-and-branch reforms and cuts.

Of the four named so far, only Mr Annan has a proven track record of broad international administrative experience. He is an international manager, not a politician. He is a "known quantity" to most states, and speaks French fluently, which is vital to Paris. He has direct experience of managing the human resources of the UN.

As a result, he is in the difficult position of being the front-runner. If he is overtaken in the last furlong it will be by politics, not by anyone more qualified for the job.

Mr Annan, 58, has worked for more than three decades in the UN system, held senior

positions in almost all of the UN's most difficult departments — finance, personnel, peacekeeping — and yet has come out of each of them with an enhanced reputation.

Since 1982, he has worked for the UN, for the High Commissioner of Refugees and the World Health Organisation in Geneva, Addis Ababa, Cairo and Ismailia. At the UNHCR he was director of budget, deputy director of administration and head of personnel at a time when the agency was expanding fast to cope with the huge numbers of refugees worldwide.

When he took over the peacekeeping department in March 1993, he said "we all had higher hopes for peacekeeping. The Cold War was over. The new consensus in the Security Council permitted agreement on operations that had not been possible."

As a result peacekeeping expanded as never before. There were at one time 18 different operations around the world, deploying 70,000 troops. They were all managed out of Mr Annan's office in New York. Much was achieved in many of those operations, but the very public agonies of Somalia, Bosnia, Rwanda all helped to destroy optimism.

Mr Annan recognised that the nature of peacekeeping had changed. The UN was no longer keeping armies apart but dealing with "myriad paramilitary groups, militias and uncontrolled elements" which disregard whatever their nominal leaders may agree.

However, he upset African ambassadors in 1994 when he told *Le Monde* that it was difficult to recruit African troops for peacekeeping missions because their governments "probably need their armies to intimidate their own populations".

Annan: has a proven record as manager



An Accra voter holds her registration card in her mouth as she casts her ballot in the presidential election.

Freud's birthplace is massage parlour

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

AMBITION plans to turn the birthplace of Sigmund Freud, the Austrian psychiatrist who uncovered the central role of sexuality in human nature, into a museum have been thwarted. The owner has turned the building — in the Czech Republic — into a massage parlour.

"I think Freud would have regarded the house's current usage with some amusement," Shmuel Erlich, the Sigmund Freud professor of psychoanalysis at Jerusalem's Hebrew University, told *The Jerusalem Post*, which revealed the historical irony under the front-page headline "Freud's birthplace offers another kind of therapy".

According to the paper, the owner, Josef Matula, is blocking attempts by the town council in Pribor, northeast Moravia, to create the museum. Pribor was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the time of the psychoanalyst's birth in 1856.

"We want to restore the building to what it looked like when the Freud lived there," said Jan Monsport, the Deputy Mayor.

Since the collapse of communism, thousands of dubious "massage parlours" — most of which are, in fact, brothels — have sprung up all over the Czech Republic.

There are already museums devoted to Freud in Vienna where he spent most of his life, and in his former house in London, where he fled with his family in 1938 after the Nazi takeover of Austria and later died of cancer.

Koreans make long march to freedom across China

BY JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

TWO more North Korean defectors have arrived in Hong Kong after walking 2,000 miles through China, bringing the total reported to 19 over the past week.

Yu Bong Nam and Chon Hak Chol were identified by Yonhap, the South Korean news agency, as security and an intelligence agent respectively. Mr Yu spied on students from North Korea while stationed in Peking.

In a newspaper interview Mr Chon described himself as an agent of the ruling Communist Party's international department for overseas intelligence activities, and gave details of the intelligence war North and South Korea are waging on Chinese soil.

The agent, who allegedly

seek asylum in the Sun because he had failed a recent mission to track down the son of a senior North Korean official who had gone missing in China.

On Thursday 17 North Koreans from a single family were reported to have arrived in Hong Kong after the same cross-China trip. They will probably fly to Seoul today.

According to Yonhap, 35 North Koreans have fled to Hong Kong since 1993. Eight carried on to South Korea.

In making their arduous journey across China, such refugees are believed to be making use of the substantial numbers of Koreans who live in the north of the country for centuries.

Seoul: South Korea will launch an Internet page to counter a planned offensive by North Korea through the worldwide web. "UniKorea will carry information and data on unification and North Korea," a National Unification Board official said. (AP)

BRITAIN NEEDS EUROPE: EUROPE NEEDS BRITAIN

John Attiekl Allday, Jeff Abbott, Jack Alastair, Brian W Allday, Philip Allott, Professor Alan Alport, Rev John Andrews, Anglo Ital Consult Ltd, Peter Anson, David G Appleton, Clare Armstrong, Derek Armstrong, Peter Arthur, Sir Harold & Lady Atchley, Brian H Atkins, David & Renate Atkinson, Dr Baker, Richard Ballerker, Lord & Lady Banks, Rev Charles Banks, Mrs J Banks, Jeremy Barker, G W Barnes, D F Barratt, David Barratt, B D Barton, Edward M Battye, Keith L Batten, Harry Baum MBE, Henry J Beirni, Roland Beckford, Cllr June Beigland, Mr D N Beever, Cllr Mrs Margaret Ann Begg, John Belcher, Dr R E Bell, Cllr J M Benard, Martin D Beresford, Eric & Julie Bevins, Mrs Daisy Blakely, Nigel G Birl, Terence Blaup, Michael Black, Dr R B Black-James, Mr John Blacklocks, Gerry Blanchard, Mr J Boden, Peter Bolotz, Barbara Bolton, Douglas Bolton, Mr F M Boo, Rev John Bowcock, John Bowler, Dr Barbra Brinkley, David Dunlop, Conway Braune, Professor Irene Brennan, Nigel Britton, Roger Broad, 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Britain is one of the great nations of Europe. Geographically, economically, politically, it is in Europe that our destiny lies. Our future wealth and influence turn upon our role as a central player in Europe, shaping common policies from within.

Britain gains enormously from membership of the European Union. The future shape and policies of the EU are vital to us as a country. Building institutions which promote prosperity and peace is the urgent challenge of the Intergovernmental Conference (IGC) now under way. We must approach that challenge with confidence and daring.

At present, the official British attitude to the IGC is too cautious and dogmatic. The Government seems immobilised by fears of what Douglas Hurd once called "shadows on the wall". We are in danger of painting ourselves into a corner and achieving very little, for Britain and for Europe as a whole.

That is why the European Movement — an all-party group which campaigns for a strong Britain in a strong Europe — today sets out the basic principles which should guide Britain in its approach to the IGC. We have sent them to the Prime Minister and we urge him to follow them.

Committed to Britain successfully finding its place at the heart of Europe, we the undersigned believe that:

- ◆ Britain must take a committed, positive approach to the European Union, which constitutes the best available means to advance British power and influence in the world;
- ◆ The Government's advocacy of a "multi-speed Europe" which has now led to Franco-German proposals to establish an inner-core, from which we would in effect exclude ourselves, places Britain's participation at the heart of Europe under serious threat; therefore -
- ◆ the British Government should work constructively with our partners within the EU to ensure an agreed outcome to the IGC, rather than assume that a veto is a credible or cost-free option;
- ◆ the Government risks locking itself into a non-negotiable position in the current IGC. The UK can only secure its negotiating objectives by approaching this discussion with room for manoeuvre;
- ◆ under no circumstances should the Government rule out participation in a single European currency, now or in the future;
- ◆ the Government should accept limited extensions of qualified majority voting in any field where it might serve British interests — a principle accepted by the Foreign Secretary in February — provided it is matched by a reweighting of votes in the Council of Ministers to better reflect population;

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Opposition
make gains
in Ghana

THE TIMES MONDAY DECEMBER 9 1996

OVERSEAS NEWS 13

EU's unexploded bombs leave Major dreading Dublin

When he first began summing up in Europe six years ago this month, John Major looked forward to EU meetings. He was popular with his opposite numbers because he wasn't Margaret Thatcher, his handful of Euro-sceptic MPs were just epic bores with no political future, and his calm, dogged negotiating style worked well.

Nowadays fear and loathing lurk behind the Prime Minister's performance. He dreads the summits that can spell nothing but trouble inside his party and Cabinet. Whitehall sherpas who cho-



graph those like the one in Dublin next weekend have become bomb disposal experts, trained to defuse whatever might later explode at Westminster. Despite the fuss

generated by anything that Helmut Kohl and President Chirac say in Nuremberg today, the Government's fragility will protect Mr Major at Dublin. The EU club runs on an unwritten rule that it never does anything to topple a member Government.

For Downing Street, a "good" EU encounter is now defined as one at which only minor things go wrong. Attempts to make things go "our way" in the EU have stopped. The Whitehall machinery still grinds on to produce a position for the relevant minister on corflak consistency. But on big

EU issues, the Government is brain-dead.

The paralysis extends far beyond the single currency. Policy choices, laid out by Whitehall officials, sit idle in the system, stuck either by the deadlock inside the Cabinet or by the fear of provoking rebellion in the Commons. Take EU "flexibility". The conference revising the Maastricht treaty is tiptoeing gingerly round this opaque titled item, which boils down to a Franco-German plan to organise a hard core of federalist countries without needing the rest of the Union's permission. The idea, in the

wind for years, went down on paper last month. Its potential to reshape the EU is vast. A British counter-proposal that new cliques in the EU should be "open to all and agreed by all" was worked out about a year ago. Some officials believed ministers would be advised to put ideas on the table before Paris and Bonn set the agenda.

But the paperwork ground to a halt once it reached Cabinet ministers. Some thought Britain was better placed to wait. Others saw advantages, or spotted snags. The Cabinet's

main European committee met before the summer and again last month and made no real decision. The whole Cabinet chewed the idea for the first time three weeks ago and didn't decide much. So far the only statement of policy has been a fleeting mention of Britain's approach in a Malcolm Rifkind speech.

This reluctance to engage in any kind of European discussion spreads beyond Conservative ministers. Labour's policy wonks were worrying about flexibility in case they face a negotiating crisis over "Maastricht II" in their first few weeks in govern-

ment? They have not. Their last published words on the subject go back to September 1995 and indicate a vague dislike for the idea.

Putting off until tomorrow what might be a habit. The recent fracas over the parliamentary scrutiny of the EU laws on the single currency blew up because government whips want to avoid any kind of Commons vote over Europe at all costs. There will be a debate this week, but no vote.

The Commons vote can be delayed on the technicality

that this clutch of regulations — thanks to German insistence that they be treated as a package — may not formally be made EU law until next summer.

Yet last week European finance ministers agreed on the rules regarding the euro's legal status: the text awaits only a rubber stamp to make it law. There is no reason for MPs not to vote on it, other than that the Government does not want such a thing to occur. This kind of chicanery is legal, but that does not make it honest.

GEORGE BROCK

Kohl and Chirac try to paper over cracks in run-up to summit

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY and France will next draw a diaphanous veil over their many bitterly fought differences and launch a joint initiative intended to ginger up the European Union before next week's Dublin summit.

The broad contours of an open letter, to be issued after talks in Nuremberg between President Chirac and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, started to emerge last night. According to diplomats, the two leaders will call for a stability council to co-ordinate economic policies on growth to complement the goals of monetary discipline.

The name is a useful one since it distracts attention from the fact that France and Germany are still failing to agree on the future shape of the stability pact, the agreement which will keep members of the economic and monetary union (EMU) in harness even after the start-up date. Officials say terms of the pact are 98 per cent agreed, but plainly, the remaining 2 per cent is causing so much difficulty that a deal seems unlikely before the summit.

The Kohl-Chirac letter will focus on the need for a more closely integrated European foreign and defence policy, and two headline-grabbing

aspects have been worked out by diplomatic sherpas who prepare such summits. The first concerns the development of a European armaments agency. There has been tension for many months between France and Germany as Bonn strives to cut back its defence spending and France, without consultation, launched the idea of a big military reform.

Co-operating on defence projects, from the Tiger helicopter to the FLA (future large aircraft) transporter, is a useful signal not only that Paris and Bonn are again on the same track in military affairs but also an indicator that they are sensitive to the needs of other EU states. Britain, for example, is interested in participating in the FLA and in being an active member of the

European defence agency. It was unclear last night, however, whether the Helios 2 Franco-German spy satellite would emerge unscathed.

The French are keen to develop a European high-tech intelligence-gathering satellite to scan crisis zones. The German Defence Ministry is happy to obtain this information from America and would prefer to save the money. Herr Kohl, however, has personally promised M Chirac that Helios will go ahead.

The second element of the letter reflects long, wearisome negotiation at the level of foreign ministers. The French want a high-profile figure to represent European foreign policy, a "Mr Europe" who can stand up and speak strongly (preferably in French) to the US Secretary of State. The Germans are less than enthusiastic about the idea. A compromise has been reached between "Mr Europe" and the minimalist German version, dubbed "Mr Nobody".

The letter will also put forward ideas for co-operating more closely in fighting organised crime, drug smuggling and terrorism. This has become a hot issue again since the Paris bomb last week.

Leading article, page 21

Bonn: Klaus Kinkel, the German Foreign Minister, said yesterday that Nato should offer Russia a seat on a permanent consultation body for European security, with equal rights to Nato members, and Germany would insist that Moscow's interests be considered by the alliance. The committee would consider issues such as disarmament. (Reuters)

Fear of food shortages amid Greek blockade

FROM JOHN CARR
IN ATHENS

THE threat of food shortages loomed over Athens and other large cities as farmers' blockade of Greece's main roads entered its second week.

Thousands of tractors have paralysed transport at more than 30 road and rail junctions around the country as farmers demand higher prices for their produce and a rescheduling of the equivalent of \$300 million in farm debts. Farmers have vowed to keep the roads blocked until the Government caves in.

Costas Simitis, the Socialist Prime Minister, is adamant that his Government cannot spare any funds from the 1997 austerity budget to ease the farmers' income squeeze. He has called their demands "excessive" and refuses to negotiate unless the farmers' half what he calls their "blackmail tactics".

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'Clean' era ends with dawn raid on judge

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

DAWN raids by tax fraud squads on the homes and offices of Antonio Di Pietro, the populist symbol of Italy's anti-corruption drive, were greeted with dismay at the weekend by ordinary Italians and undisguised glee by the many politicians and businessmen he prosecuted.

However, all agreed that the swoop by 250 officers of the Finance Police was a watershed marking the end of the "clean hands" era that brought down the Christian Democrats four years ago and ushered in a new phase of Italian politics and the current centre-left Government.

Signor Di Pietro said yesterday that the charges were a "vulgar lie and a squalid vendetta". Corriere della Sera, based in Milan, where "clean hands" began, said not even the gala opening of the new season at La Scala could compensate Italians for the downfall of their hero, whose wife and children were woken by police.

"Even top Mafia bosses are not treated this way," the paper said. "Raids in the night, neighbours and relatives cross-examined... this is a vendetta."

Signor Di Pietro is revered by many Italians as the Milan magistrate who, by exposing the web of corruption in Italian politics and business life known as Tangentopoli (Bribesville), gave the country a fresh start.

But there have been persistent claims that Signor Di Pietro and other "clean hands" magistrates were as tainted with corruption as their victims. Signor Di Pietro resigned as a magistrate for unexplained reasons in 1994. Last year he became the target of a whispering campaign alleging "abuse of office", spin-offs, he maintains, by rival magistrates in Brescia on behalf of his powerful enemies.

In March this year a court cleared him of using his powers as a magistrate to favour his friends commercially, and to obtain a low-interest loan to buy a

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Measuring risk Bear prints Sniff 'n' tears

Your number's up

Scientists are good at putting a number on anything, but so far they have failed to find a simple measure for the risks of normal life. Is living in Cornwall, where radon levels are high, more dangerous than eating British beef? How do both of these compare with the risks of smoking cigarettes or driving a car? We need a number to express these risks.

The challenge is thrown down in this month's issue of the Royal Statistical Society's magazine *RSS News*, following a call made by the society's president, Adrian Smith, in his presidential address. The journal says that it simply isn't good enough merely to be told that something is "safe" or otherwise. "People need a simple measure of risk which they can use as a basis for decision-making," the journal's editorial says.

Coming up with a Richter scale for risk isn't easy. It must provide a comparison between the risks of purely voluntary activities (smoking, rock climbing) and those that are voluntary but unavoidable (travel, eating different foods, coalsmining) while also incorporating risks imposed by society (living near a nuclear power station, or passive smoking) and acts of God such as floods or lightning strikes.

RSS News cites approvingly the work of the mathematician John Allen Paulos of Temple University in Pennsylvania. In his book *Innumeracy* Professor Paulos suggests a simple safety index based on logarithms. If



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one in every 8,000 people in the UK dies every year in traffic accidents, then the safety index would be the log of 8,000 — that is, 3.9.

On this basis, smoking ten cigarettes a day would score 2.3, being struck by lightning 6.3, playing Russian roulette once a year 0.8, and dying from a bee sting 6.8. *RSS News* suggests that anything under three might be deemed dangerous, and anything over six safe.

This is a good starting point, but not the complete answer. It would need to be adjusted for the number of people involved, and for their age: a long-term risk that is unacceptable for a 25-year-old might well be seen differently by those over the age of 70 — and it should make allowance for disease and disability as well as death.

One drawback is that dangerous activities score low, and safe ones high, the opposite of the Richter scale. It is a safety rather than a risk index. Professor Paulos's answer to that was simply to subtract his safety index from 10 to produce a rising scale of risk, the more dangerous activities scoring higher. But the *RSS News* doesn't find that very appealing, pointing out that very low risk activities might come out as negative numbers.

Anybody with a better idea should send it to the editor of *RSS News*, Frank Duckworth, at 12 Errol St, London EC1Y 8LX (e-mail: rssnews@rss.org.uk). Immortality could await the successful inventor: think of Beaufort and Richter.

Putting the finger on the koala



POLICE in Australia have been warned: the fingerprints at the scene of a crime could be those of a koala bear. While handling koalas in the Urimbirra Wildlife Park near Adelaide, Dr Maciej Henneberg of the University of Adelaide noticed that their fingers carry the same kinds of loops, whorls and arches as human fingers. Detailed comparisons with chimpanzee and human prints showed that although chimpanzees are man's closest relation, their fingerprints are less like ours than a koala's are. Nobody else seems to have noticed this, Dr Henneberg found when he consulted the literature.

The main interest is evolutionary rather than forensic. "Marsupials such as the koala split from the lineage of the primates about 80 million years ago" Dr Henneberg told *New Scientist*. "So we have two lineages independently developing the same trait."

He believes that fingerprints originally evolved as a device to aid grip when climbing trees. "Although it's extremely unlikely that koala prints would be found at the scene of a crime, police should at least be aware of the possibility," he says.

When passion turns cold



PEOPLE with unhappy marriages or who are at loggerheads with their boss are more likely to catch colds, a study in Pittsburgh has shown. Sheldon Cohen of Carnegie Mellon University exposed 276 adults to a cold virus, then kept them isolated for five days to see which of them succumbed.

His team reported to a conference in Bethesda, Maryland, last month that the most vulnerable were those with long-term conflicts, either at home or in the office. A single row with a spouse or a bad day at work were not significant but "enduring social conflicts" did increase the risk. The results confirm earlier work done in Britain showing that the more stressed individuals are, the more likely they are to catch colds.

Worse still is social isolation. In the Pittsburgh study, people with few contacts either at home, at work, or in sporting or social clubs were four times more likely to become ill than those with six or more types of social contact. This result is in line with past research showing that people with lots of friends and contacts live longer than those who are lonely.



The starting hypothesis for the Pitman and Ryan flood theory came from the Bible story of Noah, which many scientists would think outrageous

Proving Noah's Flood

Anjana Ahuja reports on the two American geologists who believe they have convincing evidence that the biblical flood did take place

marine geologists plan to publish their results soon. But is it the real Flood?

Dr Ryan says: "We have convincing evidence that a flood took place in the Black Sea. The evidence that it is the same one in the Bible and in the Epic of Gilgamesh is circumstantial, and that has led to a friendly dispute between us and archaeologists."

However, the date we have come up with was a benchmark for the rapid radiation of people and farming into Europe."

Dr Pitman, though, is unsurprised by the lukewarm reaction from archaeologists: "They probably get lunatics coming in with crazy ideas all the time. And our starting hypothesis came from the Bible and an ancient legend, which would be considered outrageous by many scientists. But the experts we have spoken to are beginning to realise that this may have been an important event in history."

• Horizon: Noah's Flood, Monday December 16, BBC2, 8pm



Dr Pitman and Dr Ryan

only have been achieved if the sediment was laid down in one sweep, rather than in gradations.

Sediment cores, or samples, showed sudden change between dry, weathered mud and soft, mushy mud. The mushy mud contained molluscs from the Mediterranean; these interlopers must have been swept from their home in the Black Sea in a huge torrent of water.

More startling was the evidence lying in the dry, pre-flood mud — it contained roots of shrubs and vegetation. It seemed as if the Black Sea was once a plain, and may even have been inhabited. The Russian crew held a celebratory barbecue in the middle of the Black Sea for their stunned guests.

Precise carbon-14 dating brought the flood date forward to 7,500 years ago. The two

already been published. They struck lucky — oceanographers had mapped the deepest sections of the Black Sea basin. This survey showed that the Black Sea had been a freshwater lake. "Samples of sediments showed that the water had gone from freshwater to saline about 9,000 years ago, and that this change was very sudden," Dr Pitman says.

Then, out of the blue, a letter from a Dr Petko Dimitrov arrived on Dr Ryan's desk. This Bulgarian oceanographer, who had heard about Dr Ryan and Dr Pitman, claimed to have carried out studies in the Seventies showing that the basin of the Black Sea harboured ancient beaches and an old shoreline. These features could, in theory, have been suddenly washed over by a flood: Dr Ryan could not believe his eyes: "I rushed the letter to Walter and we read it again and again. We were thrilled."

From examining shells he had found on a deep sea expedition, Dr Dimitrov estimated that the water level had risen by 60 metres. The puzzle was beginning to look solvable.

Dr Pitman convinced friends in Turkey, who furnished him with data showing a narrow channel through which water could gush once some critical stage was reached. They speculated that the end of an Ice Age would lead sea levels to rise dramatically, and concluded that the most likely site for a catastrophic flow would be a bottle-shaped basin connected to the ocean via a narrow neck.

They found the perfect candidate — the Black Sea. Connected to the Mediterranean by an almost perfect bottleneck, the Bosphorus, there was no question that the Black Sea had been isolated from the Mediterranean during the last Ice Age.

There was one problem. The Black Sea was of strategic importance to the Russians, and was patrolled by the Russian Navy. Instead of collecting their own data, Dr Pitman and Dr Ryan had to



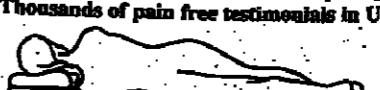
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'I like to think we were a class act'

With his serious swinging days behind him *Playboy* founder Hugh Hefner now wants his life to be seen as a metaphor of our times. Interview by Giles Whittell



Hefner and playmate Barbara Benton on his DC9 jet

Hugh Hefner, playboy of the Western world, greets his visitors nowadays not with bunnies but with a talking rock. "Welcome to the mansion," a lump of faux-granite intones from the shrubs beside a huge pair of gates not far off Sunset Boulevard. "Please drive up to the forecourt and leave your keys in the car. You will be met."

The gates swing open and you do as you are told. At the top of a steep drive a Hefner facsimile emerges as promised from a side door in a mock Tudor pile that has been the Playboy Mansion since 1971.

From outside the place could pass for a Sussex prep school. Inside, a four-foot painting of a nearly-nude Kimberly Hefner (Hef's second wife) dominates the Great Hall. Through an opulent screening room there is a cosier library; a place of leather armchairs, backgammon boards set in the coffee table and bound volumes of every *Playboy* ever published.

Here the catalyst of the century's most famous orgies has granted an interview as part of a daring bid to reinvent himself as one who "helped to define the better part of the last half-century".

Hef — no one calls him Mr Hefner — arrives as usual in a crimson smoking jacket and black silk pyjamas. When he did his most serious swinging — passing the thousand-lover mark, he says — he was lean, dark and in his fifties. Now he is 70. The hair is grey, the voice a bit gurgly after a stroke 11 years ago, the rampaging sex consigned to social history.

He perches on a sofa under a portrait of himself as "Hef the First", a Plantagenet lookalike, and another of his young wives, her breasts this time floating perkily towards

the library's oaken ceiling just as they did in her 1959 Playmate of the Year pictorial. Briskly, he swats aside the idea that he was ever a pornographer.

"The Playmates have always been rooted in a tradition of American 'good girl' art," he says without a trace of irony. "The pin-up photography of World War Two — the glamour girls, the movie stars, the Betty Grables; that's the origin of the Playmate centrefolds."

To lump him with rivals like Bob Guccione, publisher of the crassly explicit *Penthouse*, is apparently to miss the whole point of *Playboy*. (Hef, whose magazine publishing peers have just bestowed on him the 1996 International Publishing Award, prefers comparisons with *GQ* and *Esquire*.) "It was intended as a lifestyle handbook for the young urban male. All the popular men's magazines before it were macho outdoor magazines. I was looking for something a little more sophisticated and romantic."

And naked. The first issue of *Playboy* in 1953 featured a famous set of photographs of Marilyn Monroe with nothing in but the radio. It flew off the news stands. For the next 20 years *Playboy* ruled its niche, but by the early 1970s *Penthouse* and *Hustler* had muscled into the market and pundits gleefully declared the outbreak of the "pubic wars".

Hef denies he ever fought them, and he doggedly parries the attacks of feminists. "There was a moment when I did tell my editors, 'enough is enough, I don't want you imitating the imitators.' But I like to think *Playboy* was always a class act." A faraway look passes



Hefner with his wife Kimberly. "We have a lot in common, she's an old-fashioned Methodist girl from Alabama and I'm a very moral guy. I've just redefined the nature of morality."

over him and he asks if I've seen "the book" — a bumper batch of Hef's favourite Playmates from four decades of soft lighting and cheesy sets, just published in America in tasteful white hardback.

"Can anyone seriously, in the real world, believe those images are exploitative?" he asks. "Do the women who have become famous thanks to that appearance in the magazine view it as exploitation? In most cases you'll find they look back on it as a quite remarkable period in their lives."

Hef believes he and his magazine have taught the rest of us that "nice girls like sex too". This certainly is good to know. And with a passionate *vive la difference!* he dismisses his critics as anti-sex feminists pursuing a fringe political agenda. "The notion that somehow men and women are

the same and should behave the same and dress the same is nonsense. It's not politically correct to say so, but the sexes are complementary. They are in no manner, shape or form the same and thank God for that. It's what makes the world go round. That attraction between the sexes is the major civilising force on the planet."

All of which would seem to make the Playboy Mansion the cradle of civilisation. Please, Hef. Say it ain't so. What was the wildest night of your life? He sinks back into the sofa and guffaws. It must be hard, casting back over 30 years as a self-styled symbol of sexual revolution and liberated bachelorhood, to single out one moment of particular excess; harder still considering the first ten were spent in Chicago in a mansion even vaster than the present one, with parties every night and a "harem" of 24 young women for tenants. But he manages.

"There was one birthday in the early Eighties when more than a dozen Playmates surprised me in the groto," he says. "That was a very nice evening. I love surprises." The groto sits behind the mansion under perhaps a hundred tons of designer crag-scape ringed by a swimming pool and refreshed by an artificial waterfall.

Elsewhere on his five-and-a-half acres Hefner maintains 30 squirrel monkeys, an aviary of parakeets and a games room with wall-to-wall pinball machines and a foam-floored, mirror-curtained decorated sex alcove (now used chiefly by Kimberly to watch TV with friends).

But the groto is the highlight of any tour. If orgies are your thing, this must be a fun place for them. The pool flows into one cave and, over dimly-lit shallows, into another. Between them a hot tub bubbles in the style of a mineral spring. Lighting, water jets and something labelled "Your Pleasure" are controlled from a panel near the entrance.

With sex toys like this. Weren't there times when Hef lost his grasp of what was real? On the contrary, he says. "Fantasy and reality did blur, but largely in the minds of other people. You don't fly the world in a private jet painted black with a rabbit on the tail, and sleep in a rotating, vibrating round bed, and not know what you're doing — or see the humour in it."

Those were the days. In the late 1960s the Playboy empire stretched from a wildly profitable casino in London to the front line in Vietnam, where the magazine arrived by air-drop. With *Playboy* selling more than seven million copies a month, Hefner's net worth was put at over \$200 million. So he travelled in the world's biggest executive jet, a customised, stretched DC-9.

the publisher of *Hustler*, are the ones behind the scandals nowadays. Next to them, Hefner is a pillar of propriety. A "Children at Play" sign in the driveway reminds you he is the devoted father of two young sons, Marston, 6, and Cooper, 5. He likes to be mentioned for his lectures on censorship at the University of

Southern California, and wants his life to be seen as a grand metaphor for his times — from the rigid taboos of his Midwestern upbringing (which fired his fantasies) to the unbridled hedonism of the Playboy Mansion in the 1980s (which fired ours). Indeed, the noted feminist Camille Paglia has emerged as a staunch

Hefner fan, calling him: "one of the principal architects of the social revolution". He is also, at last, monogamous. "Kimberly and I have a lot in common," he explains dead-pan. "She's an old-fashioned Methodist girl from Alabama and I'm a very moral guy. I've just redefined the nature of morality."

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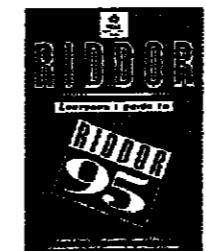
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Reducing Risks - Protecting People

in the Christmas party season

THE WAY WE WERE

I am afraid that parties have lost their charm for me. Years ago, I sought them out and there was nearly always someone or other who would be giving some sort of thrash on a Saturday night. St Martin's School of Art and the other loafers in Soho made up a small population who would drop almost anything and go almost anywhere to crack open a bottle and give the night away. It was horribly uncomfortable.

The truth of the matter is that we would end up sitting on the floor, drinking the final dregs of some plonk out of a teacup, having already run out of cigarettes and then, usually penniless, have to walk all the way home. And there was usually a fight.

Oddly enough, there was more violence of a sort in the Fifties than now. Queensbury Rules stuff, mind you, but it was common practice to settle rows and arguments with fists and that was frequently the low ebb of the evening.

Now they just talk about money and serve only wine

A good party then and in one's youth was a party where you or I met someone wonderful and beautiful who would leave with you, walk out into the dawn with you, and then go to bed with you. Those days are over. For me, anyway.

At 18 or thereabouts, one is easily entertained. Sitting about drinking rubbish to the sound of Dixieland jazz is not appealing and today's parties to be avoided are those given by art galleries for private views and publishers to launch books. Everybody talks about money all the time and most of them serve only wine as though it is the only drink in the world. Even at the classier ones it is a thoughtless assumption to take it that everybody adores champagne.

I fear that it sounds horribly snooty to say so, but I find that as the years go by the best parties are given by those who can simply afford to give them. All the spirits and mixes should be available, plus good beer. A party is not, or should not be, a private wine-tasting. Some of the very best parties are accidental and are borne of good friends simply meeting for a drink. That is sadly rare.

There is, however, one fair awfully party, and it is starting everywhere now — the Christmas office party. I have come



Jeffrey Bernard: a good party was one where one met someone wonderful and beautiful. Those days are over for me

to savour and relish the subordinate office minion taking his or her Dutch courage in both hands to tell the boss tycoon what they really think of them. Bosses should avoid their own shindigs. At one such do at a newspaper office I once counted no fewer than 12 female secretaries crying at the end of the evening. Christmas is the deep end for those who paddle during the rest of the year.

But now that I have lost my confidence, I have lost my

optimism too. The chances of finding Miss Right at a party now that I am 64 and wheelchair-bound are just a little remote, one million-to-one. Parties for me now are noisy gatherings in which at wheelchair-level all I can see is a sea of bums, while people bump into me or trap me against walls in corners. Anyway, Miss Right is usually married to Mr Right.

JEFFREY BERNARD

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**ARTS
THE WEEK
AHEAD**


OPERA
Jonathan Miller's delicious staging of *The Mikado* comes back to the London Coliseum
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



JAZZ
A female Harry Connick Jr. singing star Diana Krall performs at Pizza Express, Soho
GIG: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



THEATRE
Roald Dahl's *The Witches* returns to the West End for a Christmas season at the Vaudeville
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



BOOKS
Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, writes a handbook on Fighting Terrorism
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday

I find it hard to understand why Mrs Bottomley is not the most popular politician in Britain. She looks good, sounds good and always wants to do us so much good. She is telegenic, photogenic, radio-highly active, and every time I meet her I think she's bound to be a winner. She is the minister of fun, and yet all she collects are catcalls. Why?

Recently, that distinguished economics commentator Sir Samuel Britain wrote an article on the subject of Darwin and economics which he titled: "It's the biology, stupid". Given leave to employ a similar colloquial directness, if I were to say in a sentence why I thought Mrs Bottomley's name was not sung from the hilltops, chanted on the terraces and remembered in prayers I would reply: "It's the lottery, stupid".

The lottery adds to the gaiety of the nation, profits a few surprisingly decent citizens, and benefits a myriad of organisations throughout the land. Yet it has about it that unmistakable ring of no confi-

dence and alas, it all rubs off on Mrs Bottomley. She ought to be its queen bee. Adoring swarms should gather around her wherever she settles. Instead, most of what she gets is blame. Blame for giving too much to too few and too little to too many. Blame for the perceived overcompensation of Camelot, and blame for all the inevitable grudges which always outnumber gratitude.

Who is responsible for transforming this bouquet into a poisoned chalice? Cutting through Marxist and societal views of history, I would settle this time on themselves. Their lordships, I'm afraid, are responsible. Their lordships have not looked after their lady.

I refer here to their two lordships, Rothschild and Gowrie. Lord Gowrie, a warm acquaintance from long back and full of

fine deeds, seems an unlikely suspect; if it were possible to be even less likely a suspect, Lord Rothschild is that man. Yet it is because of them, I believe, that she does not wear the crown of a triumphant Tory populism.

From the outset (with that dire, politically inept and badly handled overpayment for the Churchill documents, which many people in Britain thought we might already own) there has been a whiff of the *droit de seigneur* — that the first deflowering should come from the ancien régime. But this is public bane. To see it dished out by those who have so much already, and often, it seemed, to those who already have so much, was unacceptable. Those were the smoke signals from the lottery, and there was sufficient fire to keep the smoke going. Unfortunately for Mrs Bottomley, it fell into the gift

of those who, enormously enlightened though they are, epitomise and indeed seem to practise *de haut en bas dispensation* — out of touch with the times. But the lottery is modern.

So the lottery began at the top with the toffs and has not been able to shake this off. In some ways it has been on the run ever since, thus clouding Mrs B's opportunity to shine in a job for which she was surely sculpted by fortune, and one in which she could have won loud hurrahs for her party.

Of course — particularly in the past few weeks — it has begun to tackle its own prematurely aristocratic rules and organisation. It has taken a rather feeble shot at flexibility and a slightly better shot at populist berison. But it may be too late. See how easily a document from the Labour Party which, among other things, quelled Camelot, addressed the doubtful double role of the Director-General of Ofcom, and came up with imaginative suggestions such as a community chest and the targeting of gifted children — how easily that makes the present engine look clumsy.

The suspicion lingers that little thought was given to this grand opportunity. An aristocratic wave was never going to be enough, and the wave is rather a wave of goodbye to a wonderful chance Mrs Bottomley had to become a folk heroine.

You cannot expect order at the annual comedy awards: I was in the studio when the live events took place, and frankly at times I rather longed for more disorder than the general rowdiness which grew as the evening went on and the alcohol slid down. Spontaneous salutes from the audience, perhaps, to test the locomotive delivery of Jonathan Ross — he could cope; or a recipient who defied the three-line whip, of 20

seconds of galloped thanks, and embarked on a shaggy dog story or forgot his name or sang a silly song. People are rated on and off rather uncomfortably. The baracking was not well received by the mugged comedians present — a good litmus test that it was not funny. The constant references to getting "pissed" were so true as to be more in the realm of documentaries than comedy.

And there is a recent threatening development in such awards. That is the sending up of the person who makes the award, the person who receives the award, or both. We are told that the tyrannical young viewer enjoys this and it can keep the show lively. But it also keeps it free of emotion, free of much sense of achievement and free of a sense of a classy event. Two of the older winners showed that the old way might still have some juice in it. Cilla Black was moved by what she clearly felt was a great moment; Dave Allen was truly witty. Honour was saved. Applause was heartfelt.

A departure for Domingo

SOMETIMES lightning strikes during an opera performance, not very often, and occasionally in the unlikeliest circumstances. When it happens, Dr Johnson's "exotic and irrational entertainment" becomes a theatrical experience like no other.

It happened at Covent Garden on Friday in what the cynical might describe as unlikely circumstances: a one-off performance of *Die Walküre*, at gala prices to celebrate Plácido Domingo's 25th anniversary.

OPERA

Die Walküre
Covent Garden

versary with the Royal Opera and to launch a week in which he is generously presiding over fundraising for the Development Appeal.

Instead of singing Cavafy-dossi — with which he made his debut in 1971 — as originally announced, Domingo chose to undertake his first Wagner role in London, Siegmund. It was a canny decision. The part lies perfectly for him, not too high, and exploiting the strength in the middle of his voice there are precedents — Vickers, Vinay — for Otellos, who are also fine Siegmunds. Add the Latin warmth of his sound and an Italianate sense of musical line, and you have

as beautifully sung a Siegmund as you could hope to hear. And as if to confound cynics, he entered fully into the spirit and the letter of the unconventional Richard Jones production.

He was joined in what was previously the most weakly cast section of this *Ring* by outstanding Sieglinda, Karen Huffstodt. She is a soprano who always gives 110 per cent in performance, and then a bit more — she was in radiant, rock-steady voice and unleashed torrents of impassioned yet perfectly controlled singing. With Deborah Polaski (Brünnhilde), Jane Henschel (Fricker) and John Tomlinson (Wotan) all in even better form than for the recent cycles, this was an evening of rare vocal splendour.

There were moments in the first act when it sounded as if a little more rehearsal might have been desirable, but Simone Young, also new to Wagner here, negotiated one or two awkward corners with an admirably cool head. Confidence and concentration grew in the second act, with a breakneck prelude and a perfectly paced account of the tricky Annunciation of Death, and lightning struck. The third act was simply electric from beginning to end. A thrilling evening, one that those lucky enough to attend will not easily forget.

RODNEY MILNES

THEATRE: A children's fairy-tale full of fun, plus bitter badinage from a disabled company

A feast of beastly riches

"A FAIRY-TALE thriller" is the subtitle of this year's Christmas show and the production certainly lives up to the description, with its abrupt extinction of lights in the auditorium (excited shrieks from the rows of school parties), the jump-cuts between scenes, and the agonised roars from the Beast.

Laurence Boswell sets the adventures in a fairytale France where Beauty's family, in their early years of wealth, wear 18th-century costume and spun-sugar wigs. The cast enters down the aisles of the theatre, chatting up the audience.

The set is a round, planked stage from which walkways slope up to three towering wardrobes, and at the start of the evening eight elegant metal chairs are arranged in a line across the diameter. Beauty's parents, her brothers and sisters, perch on these, tossing the narrative line between them, and a particularly effective moment deriving from this occurs when Beauty's mother dies: the actress (Jan Pearson) stands up as if surprised by the announcement and slowly, reluctantly moves away.

Liz May Brice's Beauty, her face expressing wonder, courtesy, moments of irritation but unfailing true grit, undergoes

Beauty and the Beast
Young Vic

JEREMY KINGSTON



Simon Gregor in a mask part dragon's head, part tree root, and Liz May Brice as Beauty

Not deaf to the issues

A NUMBER of devils are set up to be knocked down in this collaboration between Graeae, Britain's leading disabled people's theatre company, and Basic Theatre, a black disabled company. Roy Winston's plot involves four black performers who represent Britain at an arts festival in America, where they are subjected to manipulative nice ness by the organisers and

Sympathy for the Devil
Tricycle

calls for militant agitation by Jud Evans, a white disabled rights activist played by Jonathan Keeble.

As the badinage becomes more bitter, the members of the group dispute whether they owe allegiance to the black community, the disabled or their own individual desires. Consider that the group's director and dancer are in the midst of an affair, and you can imagine how the plot thickens.

Winston's best writing concerns pairs of characters. In one encounter, the group's partially deaf leader, Ray Harrison Graham's Fitzroy, explains to his incredulous mother (Deborah A. Williams) that he wants to marry a blind girl. Another features the one-handed Jackie (Williams again) and the blind Chantelle (Maria Osbod), each of whom expounds with increasing spite on the romantic circumstances of her companion.

The writing in these scenes is absorbingly honest, and Graham himself directs with appropriate vigour.

ANDY LAVENDER

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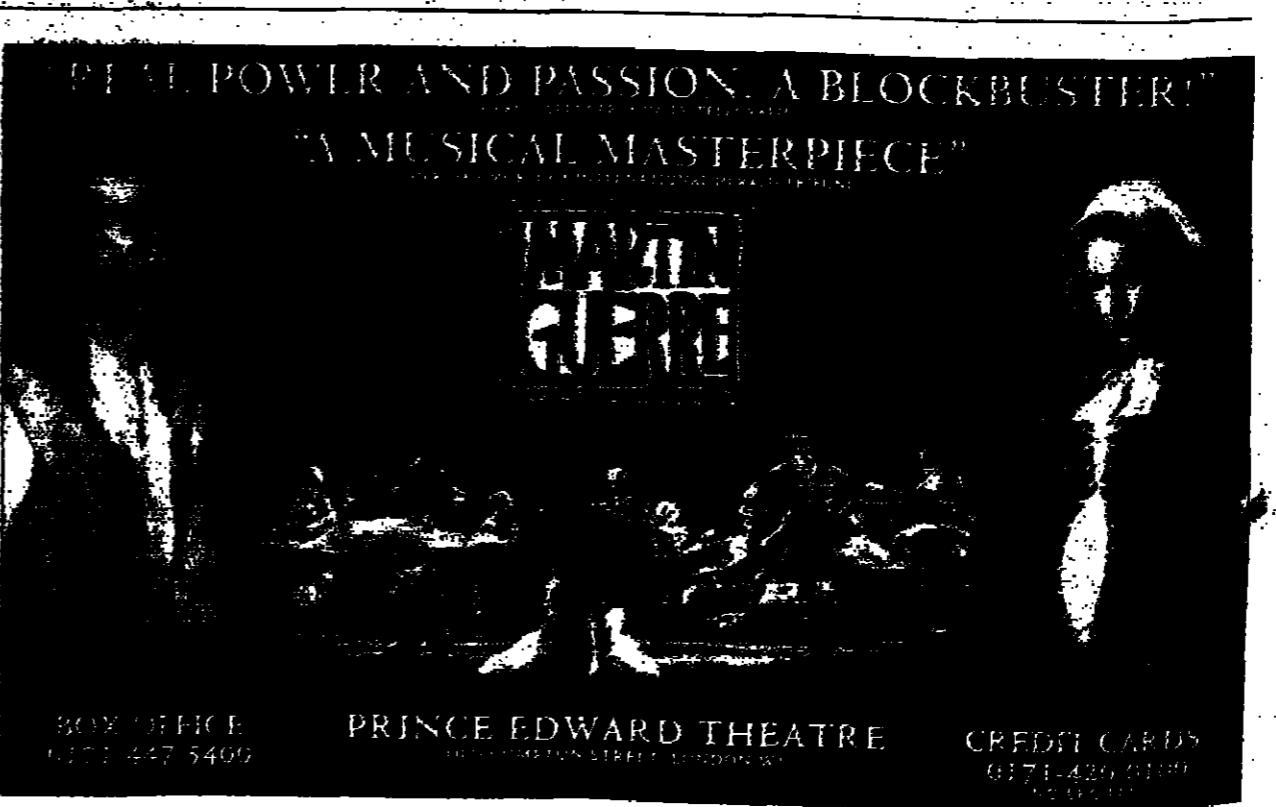
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**CONCERTS**

At the Wigmore: Barbara Bonney gives a masterclass and recital of Mozart and Strauss
EVENTS: Tuesday, Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday

**MUSICAL**

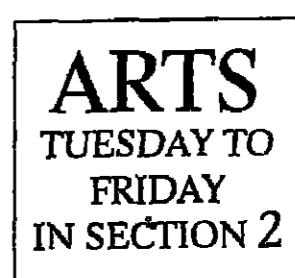
Film director Federico Fellini becomes a stage character in *Nine* at the Donmar
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday

**FILMS**

Spot on: the new Disney blockbuster, *101 Dalmatians*, parades its canine charms in Britain
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

**POP**

Shane MacGowan, former Pogues and well-worn veteran of punk, brings his band the Pogues to the Astoria
GIG: Friday
REVIEW: Monday



POP: The Who revive their neglected Mod masterpiece *Quadrophenia*; plus an interview with Beck, the singer the stars love to love

A misunderstood monster

What a capricious, anomalous life this must be for Roger Daltrey and John Entwistle. Umbilically connected to one of the great original British rock'n'roll groups, they are required every seven years or so to go into the booth and don the rock superhero costume once more. Who has the right to ask that of men now in their 50s? Someone whose own superpowers may have wained undeniably, but whose legacy still holds a deep allure.

Pete Townshend's latest seven-year

The Who Earls Court

itch, resuscitating The Who for the specific task of exhuming his 1973 opus *Quadrophenia*, has met predictable vilification. But those who saw the fingers of his lumbering monster twitch anew in Hyde Park in June will have grasped some of the Frankensteinian fervour that sent him back into the laboratory, hoping to redress the memory of a much misunderstood creation.

Quadrophenia, of course, was a nostalgic work even when it first appeared. On the original album Townshend paid his emotional respects to the Mod milieu of the 1960s for which The Who helped to provide the soundtrack even if they never lived the life. But their attempts to bring the work to the stage were beached by the technological limitations of the 1970s.

Emboldened by his latter-day theatrical success with *Tommy*, Townshend has thus added yet another postscript to a group that never quite reaches the full stop. Earls Court was a mixture of original fans and inquisitive youngsters. The reviews for the American tour of *Quadrophenia* that followed that



The Who's *Quadrophenia* live at Earls Court: "Touring endeavours have polished this show into a splendid fairground spectacle"

chilly summer day in the park were wildly enthusiastic, and whatever the wisdom of its revival, those touring endeavours have polished this show into a splendid fairground spectacle.

Some of the sideshows have changed since June. Gary Glitter's role went with admirable casting to another rock'n'roll caricature, PJ Proby, while the Ace Face/Bell Boy character was now another wise

Billy Idol, a man who could sneer for England. In the absence of Phil Daniels from the Hyde Park production the part of the 1960s adolescent schizophrenic Jimmy was played out on film this time, again illuminated by scenes from Franc Roddam's film version of the piece.

Townshend cut a mentor figure, happy now to play barely audible acoustic guitar, but Daltrey and

Entwistle did nothing but enhance the memory of their immense contribution to The Who legend. At 52, Daltrey is summing fit and toned, his voice still towering, his microphone-swinging skills still intact.

Entwistle, the Ox, remains a rock to breathe again? Against all odds, they are still meaty, beary, big and bouncy, even in half life.

Respectful throughout, the audience was truly stoked when Pete and Roger stepped outside the brief, return-

ing for an acoustic *Won't Get Fooled Again* and bringing the band in for *Behind Blue Eyes* and *Who Are You*.

It may seem to some like rock necrophilia, but who can blame Daltrey's yearning for The Who to breathe again? Against all odds, they are still meaty, beary, big and bouncy, even in half life.

PAUL SEXTON

Peering through the clouds

CONCERT: Barry Millington welcomes an eight-programme series devoted to György Ligeti

who, with Ligeti, is responsible for the artistic direction of a similarly inspired recording project by Sony Classical of the complete works.

The Cello Concerto (1966) juxtaposes the two modes — regular, mechanical activity and drifting, slow-moving clusters — that correspond to the *Clocks and Clouds* of 1993, the composer's 75th birthday year. The first concert was conducted at the Festival Hall on Thursday night by Esa-Pekka Salonen

(the score) which is gradually picked up, elaborated and distorted by neighbouring notes supplied by both soloist and accompanying instruments. In the second of the two movements there is some staccato tick-tocking, and finally a mysterious scurrying

during which the cellist's hands disappear up the fingerboard — into the clouds, as it were.

The San Francisco Polyphony, dating from a few years later (1973-74), deals more, as its title suggests, with overlapping contrapuntal lines.

The cloudy textures now let more sky through, however, and there is a distinctly brittle quality to the music that Salonen and the Philharmonia caught perfectly. There are also alternating phases of tension and repose, neatly encapsulated in Salonen's handling of the child's earthy vision of heavenly bliss more astutely than I can ever remember. This series continues tonight.

If the primary reason for including Mahler's Symphony No 4 in the programme was to encourage the punters, it worked — the downstairs

area of the Festival Hall was very respectably filled. Yet this was no make-weight filler. Salonen brought out the jingling sleigh-bells in severely articulated, forcefully shaped phrases. The solo fiddler of the Scherzo (Christopher Warren-Green) was allowed to go rustic with a vengeance, while Joan Rodgers's soprano solo in the finale characterised the child's earthy vision of heavenly bliss more astutely than I can ever remember. This series continues tonight.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Odelay, "I like putting incredibly harsh sounds next to extremely delicate melodies," Beck says. "We live in a world that is full of contradictions, so it seems natural for that to be reflected in music."

The contradictions in Beck's sound can be at least partly explained by his childhood. It was split between the colourful, artistic world of Los Angeles, where he lived with his mother Blitze Hansen, a teenage habitue of Andy Warhol's Factory, whose Hollywood home became a hangout for punk bands, and the more parochial world of Kansas, where he spent the summers with his paternal grandfather, a Presbyterian preacher.

"The religious energy of a



Beck finding music in the sounds of contradictions

minister in front of his congregation is pretty similar to rock'n'roll energy," Beck says. "The grunt and the groan and the punctuation of a sermon is similar to the grunt and groan of a soul singer or a rapper. It's all connected to the blues."

Johnny Cash was sufficiently touched by one of Beck's simplest blues songs, *Rowboat*, to record it for his new album *Unchained*, and Beck supported Cash in one of his concerts a couple of years ago. The occasion gave him the chance to meet June Carter Cash, whose mother, Maybelle, was a major influence on his guitar style. "I never thought I would be that close in person to one of the Carter family," Beck says.

ANN SCANLON

● Beck plays Manchester Academy tonight, Brixton Academy, London, tomorrow and SXSW, Dublin, on Wed

FESTIVALS devoted to the music of contemporary composers are not easy to mount in today's economic conditions. All praise therefore to the South Bank Centre and Philharmonia Orchestra, in association with Van Walsum Management, for putting on a substantial eight-programme series of the works of György Ligeti. The series — called *Clocks and Clouds* after a Ligeti title — will continue over the next two seasons, culminating in 1998, the composer's 75th birthday year. The first concert was conducted at the Festival Hall on Thursday night by Esa-Pekka Salonen

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West End

Matthew Parris



■ Even six years on, the tribe still has a deep feeling of guilt, which explains its death-wish

Some six years ago I tried in a *Times* parliamentary sketch to capture the Tory mood at the demise of Margaret Thatcher. And not only the mood, but (as I supposed) the forces I sensed at work within the parliamentary Conservative Party at that time.

I wrote of "the tribe". The tribe had suffered a great internal convulsion. "They have not, as individual men and women, known what they were doing, but the tribe has known what it was doing."

"They lashed out at the media, they lashed out at Europe, they lashed out at the Opposition, and they lashed out at each other."

"One of the elders of the tribe, Sir Geoffrey Howe, began to speak. He spoke almost in tongues: he spoke as he had never spoken. He poured down imprecations on the head of the leader." Then Heseltine wielded the dagger. "With the leader now wounded, her own senior tribesmen drew back with one accord and left her. Suddenly alone, she hesitated, then staggered from the stage."

"The tribe mourned her departure. Not falsely or without feeling they wept. Then the tribe fell upon her assailant, Michael Heseltine, and slew him too — with many shouts of anger. Real anger."

"It could have been done as bolder. It had all the elements of a classical drama. Like Chinese opera or Greek tragedy the rules required that certain human types be represented, certain ambitions be portrayed, certain actions punished. Every convention was obeyed, every actor played out his role."

Now I begin to think the tragedy is not over. There being (so far as I know) no Jungian *sitzan* among those who write about public affairs, my theories of the collective unconscious of the Conservative Party are hard to fit or justify within any modern school of political commentary, but I state with what conviction I can command that I do not believe the Tories' present problems concern Europe.

If they did, John Major's admirable *On the Record* interview yesterday would dispel the problem. How can it suit Tory Euro-sceptics that a Labour government be sent to Amsterdam to defend Britain's position? Everybody knows the next Tory government, if there is one, will not enter the first wave of single currency, so what purpose is served by casuistry over the precise formulation of the party's present position?

Such questions have been put so often now that it is tedious to repeat them. They Euro-sceptics just go blank when you pose them. Their eyes glaze over. The question is not answered. Then

Each member may want to win the election, but the tribe seeks catharsis

In this paper last week, Peter Riddell remarked on how the Tories keep returning to the very thing that sets them apart. I think this has less to do with the apparent issue — Europe — and stems from deeper issues in the party's soul.

Laugh at me if you like, but I think the problem is Margaret Thatcher. The Tory tribe cannot come to terms with what it did to her. There is an unwilling yearning to be purged for her murder. Loss of their first general election without her would have been a fit punishment, and the party wanted and expected it. John Major and the electorate cheated them of their catharsis.

For the Tory tribe, Mr Major has become a totem for its inability to say sorry. In hating him, they hate themselves and their own treachery. He was not the perpetrator of the treachery, but he was its beneficiary. Still alive and visibly distraught, Baroness Thatcher hangs still in the tribe's imaginative memory as a symbol of their undeserving.

The parliamentary Conservative Party does not believe its own re-election would be just. Though any one of them can pretend otherwise, the tribe cannot pretend as a tribe. In this Gadaffi fight towards nemesis, the tribe is being resisted by a Prime Minister who can see the cliff, and an electorate that, however it may dislike the Tories, is not convinced by the alternative.

Mr Major's efforts, however, may be futile. One person could save him, and that is Margaret Thatcher.

Blair block

JOHN MAJOR'S interview yesterday for the BBC was unprecedented in taking place not in No 10 but in the Prime Minister's cane-furniture conservatory in Huntingdon. But an interview with Tony Blair at his house in Islington, or anywhere else for that matter, would have been even more surprising.

Despite repeated requests from the BBC, Blair hasn't found time for a Sunday luncheon grilling in the past two years. His most recent appearance was in January 1995; talk at the corporation is that he is frightened of a 50-minute going-over from John Humphrys.

Such suggestions are dismissed by the Labour leader's office as "pathetic", and party sources claim that he is deliberately snubbing the programme. Blair simply hasn't been seen eye to eye with its editor, David Jordan, they say.

"Perhaps if David Jordan had not been so instrumental in defending *Panorama*'s plan to screen an interview with Major just days before Scotland's local elections — a plan which was scuppered by the courts — Tony might have been better disposed towards *On the*

Record," explained one Blairite.

Given the circumstances, Humphrys's dressing-room chatter before the interview was revealing: "I meant to get my hair cut," he told the Prime Minister while powdering up, "but then I thought I'm not going to get my hair cut for David Blunkett." Blunkett had been due to appear on the show before Major stepped in.

It's Sarah asking if I will appear on her chat-show

Yawn radio

AVOID THE radio station Classic FM on Christmas Day, for Westminster's politicians are taking over and broadcasting for much of the afternoon. The likes of Diane Abbott, Jerry Hayes and Edwina Currie (who else?) will be performing in a version of Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta *Soriano*.

It sounds difficult enough to bear even without a plot which involves Abbott marrying Hayes. Light relief comes in the form of Lords Healey and Howe, who each make a cameo appearance. And then there is Clare Short in her role as Queen of the Fairies. I shall not be on their wavelength.

With justice denied him in his home country, France's flying

The Prime Minister has decided not to join the single currency, but cannot bring himself to say so

What Major meant to say was No

At the time of Harold Macmillan I have learnt to distrust politicians who use metaphors derived from gambling. Major said that if you are "playing poker with 14 other skilled players, you don't turn your cards face up," and claimed he had "good reason to be opaque". On Europe, in the past, he has destroyed public confidence by being far too opaque.

At the next election, neither John Major nor Tony Blair will be playing poker, which is a game of deceit, but the game of democracy. Entering the single currency is the biggest economic decision since Britain joined the Common Market. Almost all the relevant facts are known already. By the election there will be more than ample evidence on which to decide whether Britain should go in or stay out. Kenneth Clarke's threat to resign has made it difficult for John Major to make public the decision to stay out which in substance he has already taken. That is itself a serious weakness of the Conservative campaign. But John Major has found a way to sidestep Kenneth Clarke, and in April there will be little doubt about the real thrust of Conservative policy.

The Labour position on Europe is in much greater doubt. We know they are more Europhile than the Conservatives but we do not know what that means. I doubt whether Tony Blair would take us into a single currency, but probably ties his hands anyway. I fear that Tony Blair might agree to unacceptable centralising measures at Amsterdam through inexperience and a natural desire to make a good impression on his first big European occasion. If so, he will regret it later on. What is certain is that Labour will have to answer the European questions. Once again, like a skilful dentist, John Major has managed to find a gold filling in what appeared 24 hours ago to be the jaws of death.

William Rees-Mogg

our unemployment is now falling, while that of France and Italy is much higher.

In their comments after the broadcast, John Redwood, Geoffrey Howe and Peter Lilley all expressed their satisfaction at what had been said, which suggests that at least one of them may have misunderstood the Prime Minister's message. I found myself in particular agreement with Peter Lilley's observation that it was now time to press Labour for answers on Europe. The Conservative position is now reasonably clear, even if it is not as frank on the single currency as it should be. It centres on

did put a stop to him making the direct challenge to Labour on the single currency. But each month that the election gets closer, Clarke and Heseltine become less powerful. They should not be provoked beyond endurance, but they will not be able to dictate policy during the campaign. If John Major wins, he will not be under any further obligation to either of them. They would then be people of no importance.

The policy John Major actually outlined to John Humphrys substituted a second-best but almost equally useful line on the single currency. John Major refused once again to rule out British entry, but he did emphatically rule it out if the potential members do not genuinely meet the Maastricht criteria. "If they are fudging the criteria, there is no question of the UK joining," he said. He also said the European economic convergence must be "sustainable". By next April there will be even more evidence on these points. There have already been notorious fudges in both France and Italy; neither country is likely to meet the budget deficit criterion by "sustainable" means. In an April campaign, the Prime Minister will be free to look at this evidence; if he concludes that there has been no sustainable convergence, he can then point back to this interview and say that he has long made it clear that there was no question of Britain joining an unsustainable euro-currency.

He also specified a number of other points which Britain will not accept in Amsterdam next June if he is still Prime Minister. He will not hand over to the European Union control of policy on borders, immigration and asylum. He will not accept qualified majority voting for a common European foreign policy. He will not accept any massive increase in majority voting. He will not accept a transfer of responsibility for employment policy, particularly as

It's too late now to change

Peter Riddell
says voters have
already made
up their minds
about the parties

John Major yesterday presented the best case for the Government and its European policies that I have heard for a long time. His approach is not only in the national interest but is also politically right. But it probably comes too late, since the Tories appear in no mood to come to their senses. It is a fantasy to believe that a dramatic new initiative or change of course in Europe would suddenly improve the Tories' prospects, rather than damage them further.

Barring acts of God, wars or sudden deaths, the decisive shift in public opinion has already occurred as a result of the Tories' earlier mistakes and divisions and of the reinvention of Labour under Tony Blair. What happens between now and polling day may affect the scale of victory or defeat, but not which party wins. These months are highly unlikely to save the Conservatives.

Of course, the size of any majority is important, not least to individual MPs and candidates. But campaigns, whether the current preliminary skirmishing or the final four-week battle, are nearly as important as politicians and the media. I like to believe. It is easy for insiders to become caught up in the latest propaganda exchanges or rows of the day, and they believe they have a big impact. There is little evidence that the battle over "Jennifer's car" or Neil Kinnock's triumphal Sheffield rally made any real difference to the 1992 result. The public is more detached and sensible.

Elections are very seldom decided by the immediate campaigns. Admittedly, many voters, between a fifth and a quarter, say they decide on



their choice during the campaign, but this does not mean they decide because of the campaign, as opposed to the mere need to make a decision.

Levels of party support do shift during campaigns, often to favour the third party, but these changes have very seldom been enough to alter the result. Most movements cancel each other out, while many undecided or hesitant voters revert to previous loyalties.

Based on the comprehensive data of the long-running British Election Study, the several authors of *Labour's Last Chance?* concluded that in 1992 it was "very unlikely" that Labour could have done anything in the campaign to have generated enough votes for an overall majority or even to have made it the largest party in a hung Parliament... The 1992 election was like most of its predecessors won and lost before the official campaign ever began."

But campaign strategists still have a powerful hold. Labour was, for example, widely thought to have "won" the 1987 and 1992 campaigns, and some of its leaders congratulated themselves on having fought a "good" war, even though the party lost where it really mattered, in the ballot box. Professor Dennis Kavanagh, one of Britain's leading political academics, argues in his book *Election Campaigning* that communications and media strategies can distract politicians, and commentators, from the underlying policy problems of parties. Rather than campaigns, "enduring forces like the voters' social class, religion,

party identification, the Government's record and longstanding images of the parties are more electorally decisive". Most campaign activities are of "marginal importance one way or the other in deciding the election outcome — although in close-run contests they can mean the difference between defeat and victory, and politicians are motivated by the possibility that their efforts might make the difference".

The millions of pounds poured into campaigns are mainly a defensive exercise, to prevent opponents gaining an edge. There is always the fear that something might go disastrously wrong — a fear that Margaret Thatcher felt even at the height of her success. And there is the awful warning of Labour's self-destruction under Michael Foot in 1983. Campaigning can still be impor-

tant at a local level. There is evidence that energetic local campaigning, aimed at target groups of voters, can make a difference of at least a few hundred votes, enough to win or lose in close contests. After all, Labour won about 20 more seats in 1992 than would have been expected given its national share of the vote. This partly reflected its concentration on critical marginals. If the Tories had held on, Mr Major would have had much more room for manoeuvre since 1992.

Parties will always campaign aggressively in the belief that somebody might be influenced. The most effective strategies are those that reinforce existing images. It is not possible to change the public's view of a party, or a leader, during the run-up to polling day. A sudden change will be unconvincing. That is why it is ludicrous for the hard-core sceptics to argue that Tory prospects could be transformed if Mr Major ruled out participation in a single currency. A sizeable minority of committed Tories certainly regard Europe as their top priority, and the issue has been moving up the rankings of importance among voters generally, but it is still well behind health, education, law and order and the economy. Europe is not a vote-winner. Any supposed gains would anyway be more than cancelled out by the losses from the resulting party splits and obvious inconsistencies in policy.

The Tories' only real course is to play the Honest John card, as Mr Major did in his *On the Record* interview. He is at his best when he appears as the man of common sense and experience, and at his worst when he is the partisan and strident party leader. The Tories can claim to have taken necessary tough decisions on the economy and public services, and can contrast this with Labour's evasions. Just as it would be foolish for Labour to compete with the Tories on tax-cutting, so it would be counter-productive for the Tories to abandon their current European policy and to dump a highly successful Chancellor like Kenneth Clarke. Voters are repelled, rather than attracted, by such panicky gestures.



the fold. Minutes later, Alessandra herself phoned into the show to confirm it. Talk is that she will now stand for election as mayor of Rome for the post-Fascists.

Trump card

NEW YORK property developer Donald Trump, seldom less than artful about polishing his reputation, is boasting of winning arguably the world's biggest gamble.

Trump claims to have bet \$1 million on Evander Holyfield to win his recent world boxing heavyweight championship bout against Mike Tyson. Sure enough, Holyfield came home, on odds (says Trump) of 20-1, leaving "The Donald" with a \$20 million win. "I have to admit, I was surprised when Holyfield won," said Trump at a New York party last week. He claims to have made the bet in Nevada, and the losing bookie has yet to be found.

Steep bank

BASE CAMP on Sir Ranulph Fiennes's polar trek with his 500 sled, and they are thankful they have not yet encountered difficulties with crevasses. Showing off last October before he set off, the

bullet-headed former SAS officer gave a demonstration of how to escape from a crevasse. He attempted to scale the 300ft former Barclays Tower in the City of London, his sled dangling beneath.

Just 15ft from the ground, Sir Ranulph came unstuck. Tangled in his ropes, he was trussed up like a Christmas turkey, unable to move up or down. The window-clearing winch was lowered to rescue him. "I'm an explorer, not a climber," he said huffily.

P.H.S.



dwarf, Manuel Wackenheim, is turning elsewhere to defend his rights to be shot out of a cannon. In 1991, the French Ministry for the Interior declared that fit Wackenheim's projectile vivant act was "a danger to public morality". France's highest administrative court, the Conseil d'Etat, upheld the ban and the European Court of Human Rights has other things to discuss, so Wackenheim is taking his case to the International Court of Justice instead.

Far right

ALESSANDRA MUSSOLINI, the granddaughter of Il Duce — who has fortunately inherited her looks from her aunt, Sophia Loren, rather than her grandfather — has returned to the bosom of the post-



Miss Mussolini for mayor?



It's Sarah asking if I will appear on her chat-show



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With justice denied him in his home country, France's flying

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DANGEROUS EXPANSION

Why early enlargement could fatally weaken the Nato alliance

The second Clinton Administration's most awkward and important strategic task will be the construction of a stable and durable post-Cold War settlement in Europe. This will require a hard-fresh American look at the policy of extending Nato into Central Europe, for which the alliance's foreign ministers are expected to set a negotiating timetable when they meet tomorrow.

When they embarked on this path, Western governments may sincerely have believed that Nato enlargement would be a force for European stability. There is barely a politician, let alone a senior military commander, who believes that now. Instead they refer to Nato's "obligation to accept the new democracies"; or talk about guarding against a new security vacuum; or privately, say simply that for the West to back off now would send "the wrong message to Russia".

The first two arguments are disingenuous, since the West intends to leave democratic states in the Baltics and Balkans — precisely those most vulnerable to a security vacuum on the other side of Europe's new dividing line. The third cannot conceivably justify heading into a foreseeable confrontation with Russia that would jeopardise arms control agreements and bolster revisionist anti-Western nationalism. That could prove to be the last great geostrategic blunder of this dreadful century.

If the West is genuinely to enhance European security, three historical precedents provide guidance — the peace settlements of 1815 and 1919; and the handling of Germany after 1945. The lesson they teach is that when, as with France after 1815 and Germany after 1945, vanquished but potentially formidable aggressors are folded into new political structures, the reward is durable peace. The penal strictures of the Treaty of Versailles, by contrast, fed resentments that assisted the rise of Nazi dictatorship. With the most honourable and indeed peaceful of intentions, the West is busy breeding in contemporary Russia much the same sense of outraged national

pride and insecurity that warped German politics in the interwar years.

If enlargement also lowers Nato's credibility as a military alliance, it will have created the worst of all worlds. That is likely, for two reasons. The first is that if Nato meets its goal of admitting new members by its 50th anniversary in 1999, or does so soon after, their armed forces will not be adequately trained or equipped to participate reliably in Nato's integrated military structure. For some years, they will be second-class members, and seen to be such since Nato plans to station no alliance forces on the territory of the new members.

The second could be called the "no war for Maribor" problem. Nato parliaments must ratify any enlargement treaty. When Nato was founded, the US Senate was persuaded only with great difficulty to underwrite the core Article 5 guarantee that an attack on one member is an attack on all. Now the US Senate may well refuse to accept the major new security commitment of extending Article 5 protection from Western Europe to countries such as Slovakia or Slovenia.

If that happened, the whole of Nato would be gravely weakened. Yet so conscious are Western European governments of their debts of honour, particularly to Poland and the Czech Republic, that none of them is prepared to apply the brakes. America alone could do so — by insisting that Nato enlargement should be an outgrowth of the expansion of the European Union. That would put time to work out ways of meeting Mr Clinton's pledge to include Russia in a security circle for all of Europe". It would force the Europeans to face the double standards they have applied with respect to the continent's new democracies.

The start of a new term gives Mr Clinton his window of opportunity. He may not yet be persuaded of the geopolitical risks of enlargement; but this most political of Presidents is not the man to court the risk of an historic defeat at the hands of the US Senate. That should concentrate his mind.

QUESTIONS UNANSWERED

Major spoke well but solved nothing

Rising, as ever, to the challenge of a party crisis, John Major was confident and relaxed in his BBC interview yesterday. The Prime Minister's answers, however, are unlikely to satisfy the backbenchers and voters of all persuasions who reject the Government's policy of remaining forever silent on the most important issue facing the country in the approaching general election.

The Prime Minister's statements remained full of familiar inconsistencies and evasions. On the one hand, Mr Major said, it would be quite wrong for Britain to state its opposition to the single currency, because if it did, this country would lose all influence over the design of economic and monetary union. Yet he was prepared to say, in advance of all negotiation, that he would not countenance ceding any power whatsoever to Brussels over Britain's borders, or immigration. The implication was that border controls and asylum policy is not open to negotiation, while control over the economy is. Does Mr Major seriously want to suggest that policy on rabid dogs and asylum-seekers is more important than who sets Britain's interest rates?

Because he is so reluctant to offend his Chancellor, the Prime Minister seems unable to see that the single currency involves matters of principle, as well as calculations about temporary economic interests. To him, the choice facing Britain appears to be merely a matter of contingent economics. If he were to apply this approach to common immigration policy, he would negotiate quite happily with other member states, wait to see what the result was, and decide whether or not Britain should support it once he had looked at such details as whether first cousins or just spouses should be allowed to live in the EU.

The Prime Minister held out the vague hope of using the narrow economic grounds of the convergence criteria to try to stop the EMU project. That would be wholly

desirable, and justifiable, if he could show that the relevant economic figures were fudged. But what if they are not? What if only Germany and a few other fiscally responsible countries went ahead? Would Mr Major then gleefully sign Britain up for the single currency? The only answer he is willing to give is "trust me".

That would be easier to do if voters knew what the Prime Minister's instincts really were. How far will Mr Major go to stop further centralisation? How much more important for him is that Britain should remain "at the heart of Europe"? The electorate is growing increasingly sensitive to these distinctions. The Prime Minister has become a political stunt driver, sometimes a courageous one, but he is running out of road.

Mr Major reiterated yesterday the misleading argument that, if Britain stated in advance that it would not want to take part in EMU, it would lose its right to negotiate and vote. This is simply untrue. Whether "in" or "out", each EU country retains its place at the table and its vote. Mr Major may be right to suggest that Britain would lose influence with other countries if it ruled itself out. But even this argument is diminishing in strength as it becomes clear that the attitudes of the "outs" will have a huge effect on the success or failure of the single currency.

We have in the past accepted that Mr Major's equivocal stance may be diplomatically helpful for a time. The question is still how long that equivocation can helpfully and realistically last. The Prime Minister claimed yesterday to be putting the national interest above the party interest. As the election approaches, the two will coincide. The nation will demand to know what he intends to do with the pound. The party will demand that he refuse to give it away. The one answer he will no longer be able to offer is, "wait and see".

HEROES WITH HERNIAS

The daring young outpatient on the flying trapeze

Among the many deserving objects of our sympathy this Christmas season, spare the briefest of thoughts for Matthew Kelly. Mr Kelly is billed to play Mother Goose at the Birmingham Hippodrome this year. With the Hippodrome's run hardly begun, Mr Kelly has already been singled out as a likely candidate for a new form of industrial injury: pantomime hernia. The production company staging Birmingham's *Mother Goose* and 32 similar his-and-hoos spectacles reckons that Mr Kelly has the most strenuous time of all its performers: 18 split-second costume changes in each performance — and he goes up in a balloon.

Apparently Mr Kelly is only one of a growing number of professional actors who are succumbing to this new middle-class epidemic, not to mention the many unknown victims among the volunteers who star in the local amateur productions of *Peter Pan* put on by the WI. Before we know where we are, the shop stewards of Equity will be demanding a special hernia allowance for the seven persons of restricted height who have to lug Snow White around the stage. If the hernia epidemic during the

intensive pantomime season is taken as a sign of a wider danger, the contagion may spread. Will the diva who is required to hurl herself over the battlements at the end of *Tosca* or the baritone singing Rigoletto who must carry his daughter in a sack demand extra insurance?

Pantomime creates jobs for actors like nothing else all year. If this year's script says that the cosmic fairy flies all the way round the auditorium over the audience's head, then that what Scrooge of *Gladiators* will have to do. If he doesn't, there will be other resting celebrities ready to take his place.

If the injury rate makes casts difficult to assemble, a simple solution is to hand. Sports celebrities make second careers for themselves on television, so why should they not become pantomime stars? Alan Shearer as Dick Whittington, Ian Botham as Puss In Boots; the list of possibilities is endless. They are available, they are fit and they don't limp off to the doctor the first time anyone asks them to lift anything heavier than a handbag. By all accounts, Frank Bruno was a fine gent in *Aladdin* a few years back. Perhaps he was ahead of his time.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Misconceptions' on joining EMU

From Sir Thomas Macpherson

Sir, You reported (Business, later editions, December 5) the speech made in London by M J C Trichet, Governor of the Bank of France. As a believer in the eventual necessity of a common currency, and in the virtual certainty that some countries will initiate it more or less on schedule, I listened with interest to the array of unchallengeable facts he quoted. There were two areas, however, where he appeared to share familiar misconceptions.

First, he claimed the unfortunately named euro marked "the sweeping away of the final barriers". Not true. There are many barriers to go first — in the investment and insurance markets, telecommunications, transport and energy, and many non-tariff barriers on physical goods. And certain member countries are still blatantly propping up non-competitive enterprises with state aids.

Secondly, he asserted without doubt that the euro would be a strong and stable currency. Increasingly doubtful. Several potential founder members will creep under the wire of the Maastricht criteria by one-off devices, which by definition cannot be repeated. At least one passes the tests through the large percentage of its GDP represented by EU subsidies — when they cease, it fails to qualify.

Finally, the common currency's future depends on the readiness of members to indulge in emergency fiscal transfers from the EU budget to which they contribute. This is only likely to work if there is agreement on a radical reform and reduction of the CAP. Certain members oppose this.

These are among the factors that may make the euro at least initially a vulnerable currency which has to be supported by upward movement in interest rates.

Britain is right to await developments — but must be deeply involved in helping to establish the practical technicalities. We shall, in or out, be vitally interested in their workability.

Yours faithfully,
TOMMY MACPHERSON,
(President, European Chambers of
Commerce, 1992-93),
1 Appold Street, EC2
December 6.

From Mr Rodney Leach

Sir, What exactly is it that we are waiting to see? If the euro promises to be as strong as the Bundesbank wishes, based on strict initial adherence to the Maastricht criteria and a tough stability pact, would we regard this as a plus or a minus? Alternatively, if Italy, Spain and Belgium are admitted, flexible fiscal policies are allowed and the euro becomes a softer currency, would that encourage or discourage us?

Presumably the Cabinet has views about what would influence its recommendation whether or not to join EMU. If so, these views should be stated, since they concern the single most important issue in British life. As it is, a policy of non-commitment without reference to questions of substance is open to two interpretations, both unwelcome — that it conceals some other policy or that there is in fact no policy at all.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY LEACH,
3 Lombard Street, EC3
December 3.

From Mr Andrew Reid

Sir, It is fallacious for hardcore Euro-sceptics to claim that the Government's "wait and see" policy is out of step with the rest of the party.

I know that a significant number of Young Conservatives and Conservative Students, like the majority of the party's grassroots, endorse the Prime Minister's flexible approach to a single currency. Not to make a decision until one has all the facts in place seems eminently sensible and worthy of a responsible political party.

What is irresponsible, even masochistic, is for backbench MPs to call for the Chancellor's head. The most successful Chancellor in 20 years, who has overseen a remarkable transformation in Britain's economic fortunes, seems a peculiar choice for the chop.

In this pre-election period it would be better for those who represent Conservatives in Parliament to direct their fire-power on the Labour Party. That is what true Conservatives want.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW REID
(President, Young Conservative
Group for Europe),
21 Chancery Court,
Chancery Lane, NW1

From Professor P. S. Attiyah

Sir, Mr Clarke does well to warn us against staying aloof from European reforms, only to have to join them later with more difficulty. But the proponents for this type of behaviour go back further than he has suggested.

When the Julian Calendar was reformed by Pope Gregory in 1582 Britain refused to have any part of it for nearly 200 years. This delay meant that when we finally did pass the Julian Act of 1700, we were left with the most absurd fiscal year in the world, starting on April 6. Struggling with self-assessment, I could wish that Mr Clarke would move the beginning of the fiscal year to January 1 where it more sensibly belongs.

Yours faithfully,
P. S. ATTIAH,
75 Main Road, Long Hanborough,
Witney, Oxfordshire

Edward VIII: folly or treason of a monarch in exile?

From Mr Michael Ryan

Sir, Despite the damning wave of new releases from the Public Record Office confirming in extraordinary detail the truth of Channel 4's two programmes on Edward VIII, (report, December 4), Mr Philip Ziegler still believes the former King was "a fool, but not a traitor" ("Nothing to be done with the playboy Duke", December 4).

The evidence that Edward was a traitor turns on his actions. The programme can speak for themselves, but let me cite a few examples of his deeds, not just his pro-Nazi opinions. In the winter of 1940, as a military liaison officer in France, Edward revealed willingly or unwillingly to the Nazis details of the Allied battle plans. Hitler later changed his plan of attack from the invasion of France, choosing the route through the Ardennes.

Edward's extraordinary peregrinations in Spain and Portugal show that he actively encouraged the Nazi plot to return him to the throne. If he was a traitor, why did he not make a public pronouncement dissociating himself from Hitler's blandishments?

As Governor of the Bahamas, Edward not only expressed pro-Hitler sentiments to the American journalist Fulton Oursler, but persuaded him to visit President Roosevelt to plead his case. The purpose of the mission was to keep America out of the war, and to

strike a deal with Hitler.

Edward expected that "peace" would lead to a popular revolt in Britain, and he would be returned again as King. Thus, at a time when his fellow countrymen stood alone, the Duke was running his own pro-Hitler foreign policy from Government House. Where does "folly" end, and "treason" begin?

The release 40 years early of the PRO papers is to be welcomed. May we now, in this new spirit of glasnost, have access to the royal archives?

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL RYAN,
(Producer, *Edward VIII*:
The Traitor King),
Hart Ryan Productions Ltd,
84 Long Lane, SE1.
December 5.

From Professor Emeritus D. Cameron Watt

Sir, In justice to the Duke of Windsor's name, it must be pointed out that the chances of an "unnamed source" with contacts in German-occupied Czechoslovakia" knowing in 1940 of German contacts with the Duke and Duchess of Windsor other than those published in the 1950s are slim.

Mr. Wynn's prewar network in Germany had been largely wiped out by the progressive loss of its stations in Berlin, Vienna, Prague and The Netherlands

between 1938 and May 1940. Czech Intelligence (and Polish) provided some alternative until our stations in Stockholm, Berne and Ankara were able to build new networks in Germany; but it appears to have been seized on a view of Hitler's dependence on the German military which we now know to have been completely wrong.

Czech political information out of Germany at best represented what its sources thought. The report that the Germans were offering the Duchess the restoration of her husband as a German puppet is, in a word, diplomatic tit-for-tat from the fringes of the German diplomatic service, if indeed it is nothing more sinister.

Of course, one ringing declaration by the Duke of his faith in his fellow countrymen and in ultimate British victory would have destroyed all the rumours and expectations. The Duke never felt any compulsion so to identify himself with the sentiments of his fellow countrymen. He preferred to play the role of King Zog of Albania, a monarch in exile without a government to support him.

Yours faithfully,

D. CAMERON WATT,
(The London School of
Economics and Science,
Department of International History,
Houghton Street, WC2).
December 4.

From Professor Rodney Brazier

Sir, The Shadow Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, is wrong to assume that a Labour government would be able to flood the House of Lords quickly with life peers to overcome resistance to Labour's constitutional legislation (report and article, December 5).

New peers cannot vote until they have been introduced into the House, which is master of its own procedures. Under these procedures, usually not more than two introductions take place on any day. The Conservative majority of peers is unlikely to allow changes to standing orders so as to hasten the demise of hereditary peers. Indeed, in theory it could vote to slow down the rate of introductions.

The Parliament Acts alone provide the mechanism accepted by both Houses as governing any irreconcilable disputes between them over legislation.

Yours faithfully,

RODNEY BRAZIER
(Professor of Constitutional Law),
The University of Manchester,
Faculty of Law,
Mansfield Cooper Building,
Oxford Road, Manchester.
December 6.

From Lord Wigoder, QC

Sir, You report today that prominent members of the Labour Party are threatening that a Labour government would create many hundreds of life peers in order to ensure the passage of its proposed reform of the House of Lords.

This it has no power to do. All it can do is to threaten to advise the Queen to make such appointments — a matter entirely for the Royal Prerogative.

Whether by modern constitutional practice the monarch is obliged to act upon a Prime Minister's request which would materially change the composition of one of the Houses of Parliament — unless he has the specific mandate of the electorate following a general election in which the proposal was clearly the principal issue, or possibly a referendum — must be open to serious doubt.

Yours sincerely,

WIGODER,

House of Lords.

December 5.

What's in a name?

From Mr Tim Bullimore

Sir, I was both flattered and embarrassed to be greeted by a French musician I had been assigned to meet at Heathrow airport with the words: "Ah, you must be Monsieur Belle-Amour" (letters, November 14, 21, 26, 30, December 7).

Yours humbly,

TIM BULLIMORE,
25 Brock Street, Bath.
December 7.

From Mr William Warre

Sir, A fellow member of the Institute of Masters of Wine, Michael Pearce, once invited me to join him in partnership.

This never happened, so saving Tolstoy from turning in his grave.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 7: The Prince Edward this afternoon attended the rugby football match between the Barbarians and Australia at Twickenham, Middlesex.

Birthdays today

Mrs Beverly Anderson, education consultant and broadcaster, 55; Miss Joan Armatrading, singer, 46; Sir Nicholas Bonsor, MP, 54; Mr Billy Bremner, footballer, 54; Sir Stanley Brown, former chairman, CEGB, 86; Miss Susan Bullock, soprano, 38; Sir John Burgh, former president, Trinity College, Oxford, 71; Professor Lord Currie of Marylebone, 50; Mr Mervyn Davies, former rugby player, 50; Dame Judi Dench, actress, 62; Mr Kirk Douglas, actor, 80; Mr Douglas Fairbanks, Jr, BKE, actor, 87; Judge Dawn Freedman, 54; Mr Benny Green, musician, writer and broadcaster, 69; Mr F.G. Hankins, former chairman, Fish Lovell, 70; Mr Robert Hawke, former Prime Minister of Australia, 67; Professor Gabriel Horn, Master, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, 69; Dr Lionel Koplowitz, former president, Board of Deputies of British Jews, 70; Dame Elizabeth Lennox-Boyd, opera singer, 81; Ms Julia C. Lomas, public trustee and chief executive, Public Trust Office Executive Agency, 42; Mr John Malkovich, actor, 43; Sir Michael Mann, a former Lord Justice of Appeal, 66; Lord Morris, 59; Miss Isabel Poole, Sheriff of the Lothian and Borders, 55; Lord Rees, QC, 70; Sir Peter Stansfeld, former MP, 83; Miss Eliza Stephen, trade unionist, 71; Miss Joanna Trollope, author, 53.

Anniversaries today

BIRTHS: John Milton, poet, London, 1608; Johann Winckelmann, archaeologist, Stendal, Germany, 1717; Carl Scheele, chemist, discoverer of oxygen, Stralsund, Germany, 1742; Claude Louis Berthollet, chemist, Tallard, Savoy, 1748; James Hogg, writer, the 'Ettrick Shepherd', Ettrick Forest, Selkirkshire, baptised on this day, 1770; Prince Peter Kropotkin, geographer and anarchist, Moscow, 1842; George Grosz, co-author of *The Diary of a Nobody*, London, 1847; Joel Chandler Harris, journalist, author of *Uncle Remus*, Eatonton, Georgia, 1848; Richard Austin Butler, Lord Butler of Saffron Walden, politician, Alcock Serial, India, 1902.

DEATHS: Sir Anthony van Dyck, painter, London, 1641; Sir Arthur Pearson, press proprietor, London, 1921; Dame Edith Sitwell, poet, London, 1964; Karl Barth, theologian, Basle, 1968; Ralph Johnson Bunche, diplomat, Nobel peace laureate 1950, New York, 1971.

The first episode of *Coronation Street* was screened on ITV, 1960. Lech Walesa was elected President of Poland, 1990.

Today's royal engagement

The Duke of Kent, as president, will attend a lecture at the Royal United Services Institute for Defence Studies, Whitehall, at 12.30.

University news

KINGSTON UNIVERSITY
Miss Galina Potuznaya opened Dorich House at Kingston University on Wednesday, December 4. Among those present were Lord Howie of Troon, Sir Frank Lampert, Sir Peter and Lady Middleton, Dr and Mrs Robert Smith, Mr Faulkner, Ms Dorothy Tutin, Ms Beryl Gordis and Mr David and Mrs Sally Brown.

Nature notes



The siskin

FLOCKS of siskins have been driven south by the weather from Scotland, and are feeding on the seeds in the black alder cones. The males are small green birds with a forked tail, and a black cap that looks as if it needs combing. Goldfinches often feed with them, while sometimes a straying siskin can be found with a flock of goldfinches. With so many black-headed gulls inland in December, there are often aerial battles between them and carrion crows, with two or three gulls swooping on their enemy. A crow, in turn, will often pursue a kestrel, or even dive down, rather riskily, on a flying heron.

The yellow flowers of Oxford ragwort still bring a little colour into the roadside verges. This southern European flower first escaped from the Botanic Gardens in Oxford and made its way along railway lines until it is now one of the commonest flowers in England. Its small relative, the groundsel, is also in flower here and there. Brown foliage clings to small beech trees, some of the leaves still green at the tip. In damp places the leaves of next year's cow parsley and brown ivy are already coming up sturdy.

DJM

FEATHER REPORTS: *A Chronicle of Bird Life from the Pages of The Times*, by Derwent May, is obtainable post free at the special price of £10.95 from The Times Book Offer FT605, PO Box 345, Paulton TR11 2YX (tel 0990 134 459, 24 hours).

Memorial service

Rabbi Hugo Gryn
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Rabbi Hugo Gryn, Senior Rabbi of the West London Synagogue of British Jews and President of the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain, was held yesterday at the West London Synagogue, Upper Berkley Street, and video relayed to the Liberal Jewish Synagogue in St John's Wood Road. Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick of the West London Synagogue officiated.

Dr M.A. Zaki Badawi, representing the Muslim Community, Mr Michael Buerk, representing the BBC's *Moral Maze*, Sir Martin Gilbert, Rabbi Dick Hirsch, Executive Director of the World Union of Progressive Judaism, Father Oliver McTeran, the Bishop of Bath and Wells and His Honour Alan King-Hamilton, QC, Life President of the West London Synagogue, Mr G. David Lewin, president, and Mr Jeff Sansom, chairman, paid tribute. Others present included:

Mr Glyn (widow), Mr and Mrs David Gryn, son and daughter-in-law, Nanci and Michael Gryn, Nanci Gryn and Miss Rachelle Gryn (daughters), Mr and Mrs John Sely (sons), Mr and Mrs Michael Gryn (son-in-law), The Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London, the Swiss Ambassador and many members of the community of Israel and many congregations of the West London Synagogue.

In England. Its small relative, the groundsel, is also in flower here and there. Brown foliage clings to small beech trees, some of the leaves still green at the tip. In damp places the leaves of next year's cow parsley and brown ivy are already coming up sturdy.

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Show goes on after theatre's £8m refit

BY JOHN SHAW

THE Arts Theatre in Cambridge, which has nurtured the careers of generations of celebrated performers, reopened last night after a 3½-year facelift costing £8.25 million.

The gala evening, to thank fund raisers, will be followed by Robert Lepage's one-man version of *Hamlet*, opening on Wednesday.

Barry Brown, 51, the architect responsible for the improvements and a former president of the Footlights Revue, said the modernisation had been designed to retain "the atmosphere of a building that is very special to Cambridge". The stage has been extended and seating increased from 640 to 680.

The theatre was founded in 1936 by John Maynard Keynes, the economist, when he was bursar at King's College. Keynes donated his own money to build the theatre opposite the college. He was joined by Dr George "Dadie" Rylands, now 95, a Fellow of King's who was chairman from 1946 to 1982. He was a guest of honour last night.

In the early years Fonteyn danced *Swan Lake*, Britten conducted *The Turn of the Screw*, and Astrov played Ophelia opposite Gielgud's Hamlet.

Rylands's Marlowe Society included a string of household names including Sir Peter Hall, Trevor Nunn and Sir Derek Jacobi. The annual Footlights Revue has launched the careers of Jonathan Miller, Peter Cook, John Cleese, Stephen Fry, Hugh Laurie, Fry, Hugh Laurie and Emma Thompson.

Edinburgh Merseyair Club, Mr K. Srinivasan (OB 47-54), Deputy Commonwealth Secretary-General (Political), was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Old Bedfordians Club held on Saturday. Bedford School Mr J.G.P. Crowden (OB 41-46), president, was in the chair.

Edinburgh Merseyair Club, Mr K. Srinivasan (OB 47-54), pres-

ided at the Annual Dinner of the Edinburgh Merseyair Club held at the New Club Edinburgh on December 3. The guest was the Right Rev Mario Costi, Bishop of Aberdeen. The Moderator, Brodie of Brodie attended. Others present were:

Mr Robin Angus, Mr Michael Fraser, Sir Patrick Grant, Dr Michael Houldsworth of Dallas, of

Barry Brown of London W2, West End, left estate valued at £1,006,902 net.

John Trevor Boys of London W2, West End, left estate valued at £1,003,506 net.

Gordon James Fairbairn Mackay of London W8, left estate valued at £1,016,079 net.

Edith Beryl Altham, of Ryde, Isle of Wight, left estate valued at £1,014,000 net.

Peter John Swales of Bowdon, Cheshire, left estate valued at £2,295,574 net.

Kathleen Mitchell, of Brixworth, Northampton, left estate valued at £1,469,356 net.

Elenore Ida Caplin, of London NW3, left estate valued at £2,822,653 net.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Mrs Richard Ellis, Emma Corbally, Lettie Tyrwhitt, Sophie George and Frederick Lane Fox and Freddie Gardner. Dr Robin Garret-Cox was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr T.R.S. Coke and Miss G. Powell

The marriage took place in London at Chelsea Register Office on Saturday, December 7, of Mr Toby Coke and Miss Georgia Powell.

Marriages

The Hon F.W. Campbell and Miss K.J.M. Barrett

The marriage took place on Saturday at Holy Trinity, Brompton, of the Hon Frederick William Campbell, younger son of the late Dame of Cowdray and of Cathryn Countess Cowdray, to Miss Katherine Barrett, third daughter of Mr Richard Barrett, of Dallas, Texas, and of Mrs Jennifer Barrett, of Fulham. The Rev Sandy Miller officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by St. John, only son of the Rev and Mrs Neil Francis, of Hesby, York, and Leslie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Richardson, of Redbridge.

Mr P.A.E. Crawell and Miss C.E. Richardson

The engagement is announced between Philip, elder son of Mr and Mrs Alan Crawell, of Harrow, Middlesex, and Claire, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Richardson, of Redbridge.

Mr J.E.H. Francis and Miss L.A. Dennis

The engagement is announced between John, only son of the Rev and Mrs Neil Francis, of Hesby, York, and Leslie, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Richardson, of Redbridge.

Colcock T.M. Fitzalan Howard and Miss L.M. Dept

A service of blessing was held on Saturday at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, North Esham, Norfolk, after the marriage of Colonel Thomas, Michael Fitzalan Howard and Major-General Lord Michael Fitzalan Howard and the late Lady Michael Fitzalan Howard, to Miss Joanna Mary Don, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robin Edward and Mrs Michael O'Malley and the Rev Noel Tawsebury, SJ, officiated.

Mr S.E. Andrade and Miss L.J. Beer

The marriage took place on Saturday, December 7, at St Luke's Church, Chelsea, of Mr Simon Edward Andrade and Miss Lisa Jane Beer. The Rev Gerald Beauchamp officiated.

Mr M.R.D. Cornell and Miss L.E. Gordon Lerner

The marriage took place on Saturday at the Priory Church of St Mary and St Blaise, Bognor, of Mr and Mrs Mark Cornell, son of Brigadier of Sheerness, and Emma, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Howard, of Cuckfield, Southam.

Mr O.J. Toogood and Miss R.C. Mood

The engagement is announced between Oliver, youngest son of Mr and Mrs James Toogood, of Malvern, and Emma, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Howard, of Cuckfield, Southam.

Mr P.O. T. Toogood and Miss R.C. Mood

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Thomas Caldecott, Frederick Caldecott, Rufus Caldecott, John Lindell, Lord Settrington, Miranda Surtees, Hannah Fleming and Eliza Wake.

A reception was held at Goodwood House and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

Mr R.J. Ambrose and Dr S.H. Otter

The marriage took place on Saturday, December 7, at the Temple Church, London, of Mr Evan Ambrose, only son of Dr and Mrs James Ambrose of North Cornhill, Argyl, to Dr Sophie Otter, only daughter of Sir Philip and Lady Ottoline of Fulham, London. Canon Joseph Robinson officiated assisted by Canon Barney Milligan.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Alexander Cheetham, Dr Lucy Ambrose and Miss Charlotte

Edwards.

Mr J.H. Garrett-Cox and Miss K.L. Jenkins

The marriage took place on Saturday, December 7, in St Peter's Winchester, of Mr Jeremy Garrett-Cox, elder son of Mr and Mrs Martin Garrett-Cox of Shrubland, near Dunblane, Perthshire, to Miss Katherine Jenkins, daughter of Mr Timothy Jenkins, of Crockerhill, West Sussex, and Mrs Andrew Muir, of Inchel Lodge, Hampshire. Father Christopher Corbally, SJ, officiated, assisted by Canon Peter Doyle and the Rev Stuart Coates.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Mrs Richard Ellis, Emma Corbally, Lettie Tyrwhitt, Sophie George and Frederick Lane Fox and Freddie Gardner. Dr Robin Garret-Cox was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon will be spent abroad.

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The marriage took place in London at Chelsea Register Office on Saturday, December 7, of Mr Toby Coke and Miss Georgia Powell.

Latest wills

Queens Institute Relief in sickness Fund.

Arthur John Scarlett Rodwell, of Sutton, south London, left estate valued at £1,016,707 net.

He left £1,016,707 net.

Rona Mary Brotherton Radcliffe, of Lindfield, West Sussex, left estate valued at £2,285,223 net.

Peter Scott Nuttall, of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,205,737 net.

Thomas King Fairclough, of Churt, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,496,946 net.

Kathleen Mitchell, of Brixworth, Northampton, left estate valued at £1,469,356 net.

Elenore Ida Caplin, of London NW3, left estate valued at £2,822,653 net.

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NEWS

I will not be bullied, says Major

John Major told Conservative sceptics and mavericks yesterday that he would not be held to ransom on European or constituency issues even if it meant an early general election that could result in power being handed to a pro-European Labour leadership.

The Prime Minister issued a defiant defence of his wait-and-see policy on the single currency, telling critics that Britain needed to be in the negotiations to prevent other countries from "cheating" on the entry conditions.....Page 1

Stroke of luck for art student

Peri Kemal-Orek, 27, a Turkish Cypriot art student living in London, discovered she had acquired a Frank Auerbach painting for a mere £30. A similar work by the same artist was valued last year at more than 300 times that amount...Page 1

Heathrow chaos

Heathrow airport was thrown into chaos after the undercarriage of a twin engined commuter plane collapsed on landing, blocking a runway. More than 150 flights were delayed and thousands of passengers were held up throughout Europe.....Page 3

Fiancée held

Tracie Andrews, 27, the fiancée of the alleged "road rage" victim Lee Harvey, was under police guard in hospital after being arrested in connection with his stabbing on an isolated country road...Page 3

Laughing until it hurts

Pantomimes are bad for performers' health and can lead to hernias and other injuries, say doctors.....Page 5

Shopping spree

Shops were counting record takings after Britain went on the biggest pre-Christmas shopping spree in almost a decade...Page 6

Anglicans ahead

Sunday attendance at the Church of England is set to overtake that of the Roman Catholic Church for the first time in living memory. Figures for England and Wales suggest that the Anglicans will nose ahead by about 1,000...Page 7

Ninth food death

A ninth pensioner has died in Scotland's food poisoning epidemic which is now affecting 386 people.....Page 7

Rich pickings without cooking books

Britain's leading chefs are looking forward to becoming multi-millionaires. In a nation apparently obsessed with food, yet increasingly incapable of cooking it, the chef is king, and coining it in. Media exposure enjoyed by chefs is now reaching ridiculous proportions, with some 30 cookery programmes regularly on terrestrial television alone.....Page 5



A girl feeds doves of peace at Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo at the weekend on the 55th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor

BANKS

Bank pay-out: Creditors of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, which collapsed in 1991 with debts of \$10 billion, will see their first compensation payments. They are due to get about a quarter of their losses back initially.....Page 48

Social cost: The chairman of America's Federal Reserve Bank says the US social security system is heading for bankruptcy if taxes are not raised or benefits cut.....Page 48

Day job: Tiger Woods, the most promising young golfer for decades, is set to take a financial stake in Planet Hollywood.....Page 48

Quick pint: Plans to introduce a technique that allows lager to be created within hours have failed to find favour.....Page 48

Pop favourite: Beck Hansen, the American singer-songwriter even the stars love to love.....Page 19

Rock on: Against all the odds, The Who revive their 1973 masterpiece *Quadrophenia* live at Earls Court, proving there is plenty of life left in these rock dinosaurs.....Page 19

Noah's flood: The American geologists who think they can prove the biblical flood took place.....Page 14

Nigel Hawkes: People with unhappy marriages or who are at loggerheads with their boss are more likely to catch colds.....Page 14

Bunny man: With his serious swinging days behind him, Playboy founder Hugh Hefner now wants his life to be seen as a metaphor of our times.....Page 15

Opera high: Plácido Domingo gives a one-off performance as Siegmund in *Walküre*, in a fundraising gala for Covent Garden that provided one of the most thrilling evenings of them all.....Page 18

Jeffrey Bernard: "Some of the very best parties are accidental and are borne of good friends simply meeting for a drink.".....Page 17

Football: West Ham staged a remarkable comeback, scoring twice in the last 12 minutes, to draw 2-2 with Manchester United.....Page 25

Cricket: England began the long climb back towards respectability with a 59-run victory over Matabeleland, the first win in four matches on the tour of Zimbabwe.....Page 27

Rugby union: Freed from the constraints imposed by internationals, the Australians showed that they were capable of playing with great freedom as well as discipline in their comfortable victory over the Barbarians.....Page 35

Tennis: Tim Henman has gained more than just money from his run to the semi-finals of the Compagnie Générale Transatlantique Cup in Munich. Although he was beaten by Boris Becker, Henman showed he is more than capable of competing with the game's leading players.....Page 26

Football: Bobby Robson, the former England manager now in charge of Barcelona, suffered the first significant setback of his reign when his team were beaten 2-0 by Real Madrid.....Page 51

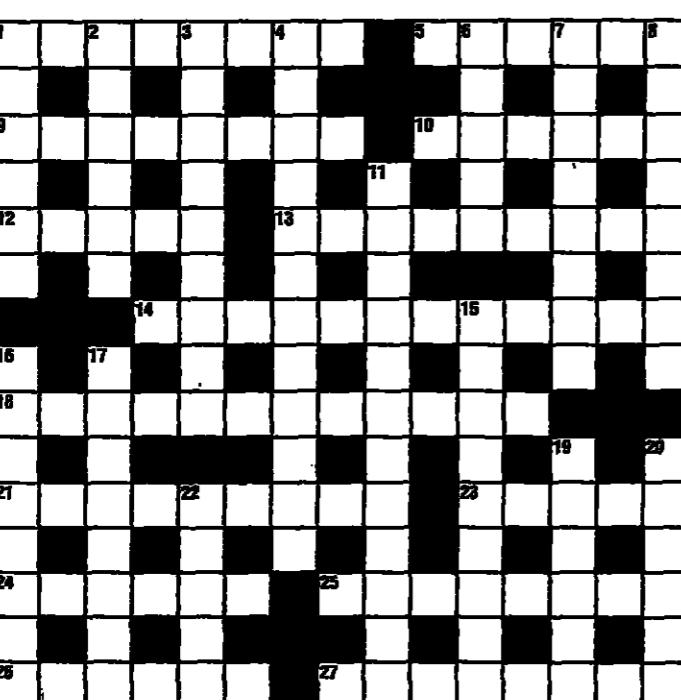
Matthew Parris: The Tory tribe cannot come to terms with what it did to Margaret Thatcher. There is an unwitting yearning to be purged for her murder. Loss of their first general election without her would have been a fit punishment, and the party wanted and expected it.....Page 20

William Rees-Mogg: Kenneth Clarke's threat to resign has made it difficult for John Major to make public the decision to stay out of a single currency, which in substance he has already taken.....Page 20

Peter Riddell: Elections are seldom decided by the immediate campaigns. Many voters, between a fifth and a quarter, say they decide on their choice during the campaign, but this does not mean they decide because of the campaign.....Page 20

Sir Basil Nield: former High Court judge and Conservative MP; Georges Duby, French historian; Edmund Caswell, painter; Eddie Harris, jazz saxophonist.....Page 23

Joining the single currency: Edward VIII — folly or treason? Gibraltar's sovereignty.....Page 21

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New moon forecast

London 0.59 cm to 7.55 cm

Bristol 4.02 cm to 8.05 cm

Edinburgh 3.38 cm to 8.33 cm

Manchester 3.50 cm to 8.14 cm

Paisley 4.20 pm to 8.10 cm

ACROSS

1 Police, given information, runs in fitted woman (8).

5 Not well stored (4,2).

9 It restricts girl in navy, creating annoyance (8).

10 Rich cake consumed in state university (6).

12 Phlegmatic type encountered in trips to Iceland (5).

13 Born leader captures every piece of land vital to invasion (9).

14 Well-established aspiration to keep bear? (4-8).

18 My catch? Eel or otherwise genuine article (3,4,5).

21 Stipulation in important late stage of contest (9).

23 A waste of rollers, waves occurring naturally here? (5).

24 Fate pursuing old church cat (6).

25 Focusing on target drill (8).

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.54 am

Moon rises: 6.00 pm

New moon forecast

London 0.59 cm to 7.55 cm

Bristol 4.02 cm to 8.05 cm

Edinburgh 3.38 cm to 8.33 cm

Manchester 3.50 cm to 8.14 cm

Paisley 4.20 pm to 8.10 cm

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TIMES SPORT

MONDAY DECEMBER 9 1996

UNITED LOSE TWO POINTS AS SCHMEICHEL LOSES HIS HEAD

Dicks delivers great hammer blow

West Ham United 2
Manchester United 2

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE QUEST for the European Cup continues to be a considerable weight around Manchester United's neck, affecting their ability to concentrate on the FA Carling Premiership, to produce consistent performances that might threaten Arsenal, Liverpool, Newcastle United and, bless them, Wimbledon.

At Upton Park yesterday, they allowed West Ham United to embarrass them for imagination, movement and ideas. Yet, fortuitously — to use the word of admission from Alex Ferguson, the manager — United went two up and then, thinking the task was finished, they allowed West Ham to come back with two goals in 90 seconds, and force Schmeichel to save the game for United in the dying moments.

Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, was relieved to have won a point. Ferguson was simply livid. He accepted his team's luck and described his side's performance very accurately as "very poor, very ragged, tired". However, when the United manager abruptly walked out of the press conference, I

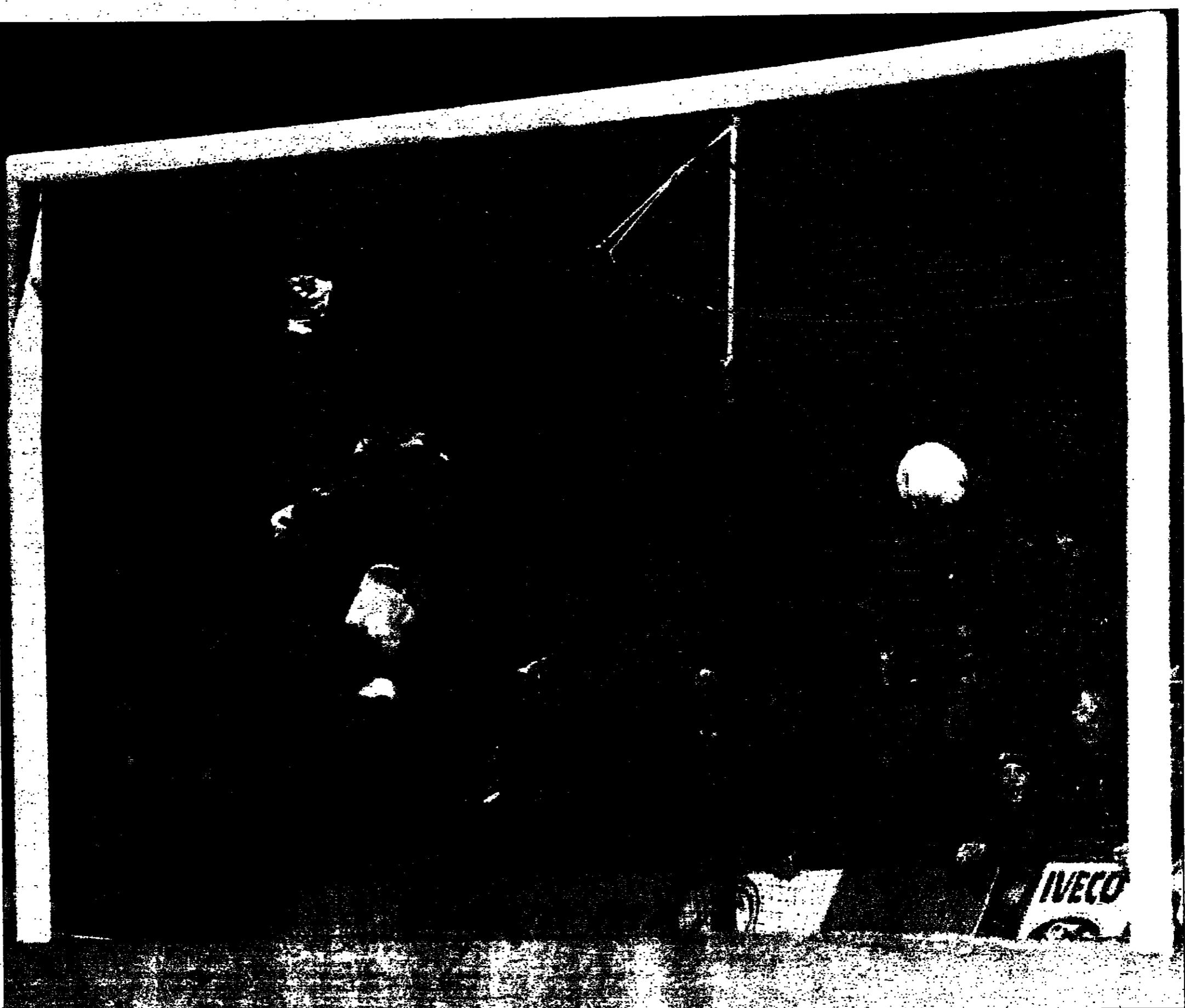
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Ps
Arsenal	17	10	5	2	34	18	25
Wimbledon	16	9	4	3	23	17	25
Liverpool	17	9	5	3	28	14	31
Aston Villa	17	9	3	5	22	15	30
Newcastle	15	9	2	4	26	17	29
Man Utd	16	7	6	3	31	24	27
Chelsea	16	6	7	3	25	23	25

suspect his sensitive mood was as much to do with seeing that his reserves are thin, that Poborsky, purchased for more than £3 million, will probably never have the physical commitment — let us call it courage — to match his tricky feet.

It was just after the half-hour that the Czech Republic international, seeing Dicks, that whole-hearted West Ham captain, coming towards him, showed his colours. The yellow card had been issued for something as dubious as an involuntary handball earlier on, and when an international performer jumps out of the way at more than a yard distance from man and ball, one wonders about a dispute charge.

Seriously, this game asked real questions of Manchester United's Premiership pedigree. If United had produced something of a waltz against Rapid Vienna in midweek, this was more of a clog-dance, and Ferguson was justified in suggesting that Beckham, though he was to score a mercurial goal, is showing signs of physical fatigue.

There are foreign elements in the English game who need, drastically, to prove their consistency and commitment. Dumitrescu is certainly one. Yet in the 22nd minute, he transcended the skill on offer and showed that United were there for the beating. He darted into the box, eluding Pallister and drove in a low shot that skimmed beyond the far post. When Dumitrescu approached from the left, his trickery brought a handball in the area from McClair. Peter Jones, the referee, generously concluded that it was ball-to-hand, and gave McClair a huge benefit of the



Schmeichel, the United goalkeeper, fails to stop Dicks's fearsomely struck penalty that earned West Ham a point at Upton Park yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

doubt. In another way, Jones was as lenient with Bilic. The Croatia defender, who possibly should not have started the game as he was unwell, fouled Giggs in the nineteenth minute, and committed a vicious late tackle on Beckham in the 31st. The card shown was yellow.

Not until the brink of half-time did United threaten and then Solskjær was denied only by a reflex save from Miklosko.

Solskjær, United's leading goalscorer, had not scored away from Old Trafford since his transfer

from Norway. The 33rd minute changed that.

The anonymous Cantona suddenly showed his quality. Spotting that four West Ham defenders, in a line, were thinking of the outside trap, he hesitated for an instant and then produced a penetrating through ball. Solskjær timed his run perfectly and, from 12 yards, drove the ball past Miklosko, who could only deflect its course into the net.

Dumitrescu retaliated by stepping past two United defenders, but again shot wide of the far post.

In the 75th minute, though, United surpassed what had gone before. Cantona, making his second glowing contribution, wheeled 180 degrees with the ball, bemusing Moncur. From him to Irwin, to Beckham, to the substitute, Philip Neville, and back to Beckham, the ball travelled. Then England's young hope struck a shot from the edge of the penalty box, right-footed and with little back-lift, that caressed the inside of a post before nestling in the net.

All over? Redknapp and Ferguson agreed that it was but, in a

rousing reprisal, West Ham rescued the game. Raducioiu easily bypassed Johnson, and gave Schmeichel not a ghost of a chance to prevent his right-foot shot from entering the far side of the goal. That was the 77th minute, by the 79th the game, more than deservedly, was squared. This time, Dumitrescu prompted the move with a pass down the inside-left channel. Hughes anticipated it and Schmeichel, reckless in the extreme, came out and flattened him. Schmeichel, inevitably, railed against the penalty award; the

looks that Pallister gave him, the words with which Ferguson admitted where blame lay, condemned the goalkeeper's rashness. Up strode Dicks to give the ball the old West Ham 'Ammer.

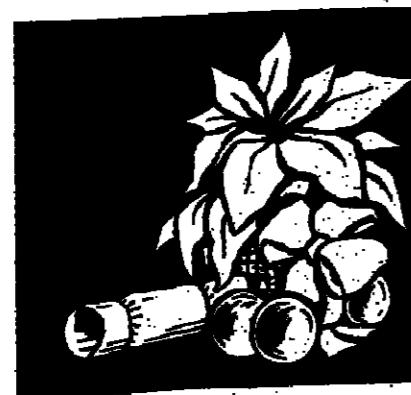
It was too much joy for 200 West Ham supporters to contain. They spilled, momentarily, onto the pitch, an invasion that did not come to much once Dicks had used his renowned eloquence to dispel them. On with the finale and Schmeichel saved dramatically from Hughes and from Dumitrescu.

"An absolute giveaway," Ferguson moaned afterwards. "We just can't keep on giving goals like that away."

WEST HAM (4-4-1-1): L Mikkola — M Bowen, S Ball (captain), R Jones, M McAllister, D Odem, M Hughes, J Moncur, P Becker, N Royston (sub F Raducioiu, 69) — I Dumitrescu — I Dove.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): P Schmeichel — P Johnson, D May, G Pallister, D Irwin — K Keown, S Carragher, P Neville, B Solskjær — O G Solskjær. Referee: P Jones.

Liverpool suffer, page 28
Fateful Ferguson, page 29
Results and tables, page 30
Robson under threat, page 31



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TELEFLORIST

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Castle besieged by Fleming's conflicting opinions

For one man, the rise and rise of Tim Henman was beginning to get just a little bit annoying. That man was Andrew Castle, anchorman of BSkyB's tennis coverage and already destined to be a far broader than he was a tennis player. That is, he will be — just as soon as he stops torturing himself with dreams of what might have been.

For once on Thursday afternoon, after Henman had dispatched Malvai Washington, Castle and his studio guest, Peter Fleming, were in agreement — British men's tennis was improving. Why had it taken so long, Castle moaned? "What's so annoying is that there are a lot of people whose talent was wasted by the mediocre help they received." Fleming was all wide-eyed innocence. "Really Andrew — and who might they be?"

TENNIS: BUOYANT GERMAN SECURES GRAND SLAM CUP

Becker serves notice of return to form

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN MUNICH

THE year has ended much too early for Boris Becker. Yesterday he rounded off his season with a near-perfect display of tennis to beat Goran Ivanisevic 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup. Having reached such a peak, he now has nowhere to go until next month, when the new season starts and he goes to defend his Australian Open title.

It has been a frustrating 12 months for Becker. Just when he had returned to the type of form that lifted him to the No 1 spot in the world rankings, he picked up a virus infection that kept him out for three months. He had to miss the French Open with a torn thigh muscle and then, fit again in time for Queen's, he injured his wrist during Wimbledon and had to miss the next 2½ months. Now aged 29, time is running out for Becker if he is to get his wish and win one more Wimbledon title.

With Becker, anything is possible once he puts his mind to it. Facing the fiercest service on the men's circuit, he gave Ivanisevic a taste of his own medicine. He conceded just 15 points on his own service and seven of those were gifts in the form of double faults. Never did Ivanisevic have a chance to threaten Becker and in return Becker was reading Ivanisevic's every move.

The day before Ivanisevic had served 42 aces in his five-set defeat



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

paid off as he turned to face the camera for maximum effect. "So just snap out of it. The sooner everyone realises that this guy's a player ... the better." Just for a second the unfappifiable Castle looked a trifle flattered. Studio guests are not supposed to behave like that.

It was even worse on Saturday, after Henman had succumbed to Boris Becker and the Union Jack-waving partnership of Gerald Williams and Bill Threlfall had handed back to the studio. Castle began

again. "I think today we have discovered the limitations to Tim's game." Fleming did not agree. "I think Tim's game was perfectly fine." He thought it was Henman's mind that needed to take a step up. Castle tried yet again: "But there's a gulf in class isn't there?" Fleming did not agree with the word "gulf". Well, what about Henman's ground strokes. Castle railed, surely they were no match for Becker's? Wrong again. "In a year's time everyone will be saying that Tim Henman's

ground strokes are better than Boris Becker's." In desperation, Castle turned to metaphor. "Henman was a whipper to Becker's rottweiler, wasn't he?"

This time Fleming's pregnant pause was too much. "Does it pain you so very much," Castle wailed, "ever to agree with me?" Fleming paused, gave it some thought and delivered his deadpan answer. "Yes, it does actually." Game and certainly first set to the American, but I look forward to battle being rejoined the next time. Sky has some decent tennis to show. I fear, however, we may have to wait a while to beat a week that began with extended live coverage of the Davis Cup final and ended — at least for most people — with a British player making it to the semi-finals of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup.

In the commentary-box, Williams

and Threlfall lent their old BBC authority to proceedings, with Williams's tendency to over-sentimentalise (remember Wimbledon before Sue Barker) minimised by the simple expedient of keeping him off-screen. Some superb pictures were provided by ISPR, the rights holder and host broadcaster. Although its camera operators' pursuit of a pretty face was occasionally distracting (the Munich crowd spent most of the time staring upwards trying to catch themselves on monitors), the super-slow motion replays of the calls and even foot faults were extraordinarily precise.

The BBC already has the technology to provide similar facilities for its Wimbledon coverage. All that is required is the consent of the All England Club and flying chalk could be a thing of the past. I'm serious.

CRAIG MASON/ALLSPORT

MARK McNULTY preserved his four-shot overnight lead to win the Zimbabwe Open from Nick Price, his fellow Zimbabwean, and Justin Hobday, of South Africa, in Harare yesterday.

McNulty, 43, repeated his 1992 success in the tournament with a closing round of 69 at the Chapman Golf Club, for an 18-under-par total of 270.

McNulty's victory was his fourth of the year, after European Tour wins in the Dimension Data tournament in South Africa, the Dutch Open and the Volvo Masters. He said: "It's always nice to win four in a year, and obviously it's a great feeling to win here in Zimbabwe again."

Price, who struggled all week with his putting, recorded a closing 68 to share second place with Hobday on 274.

"My biggest problem this week has been reading the greens," Price, the former world No 1, said. "My first six putts were all good ones and I didn't make one. I could have been five-under after the first seven holes the way I was playing, but I just couldn't get close to apply the pressure."

Hobday returned the best round of the day, with five birdies in a 67, but, having got to 13-under at the 11th, he was unable to apply any further pressure on McNulty, who always led by at least four shots.

Bill Longmuir, of Scotland, shot a final round three-under-par 67 to finish joint second with Scott Hoch, of the United States, in the Hong Kong Open. They were four strokes adrift of the winner, Rodrigo Cuello, of the Philippines, who finished with a 70 for a 15-under-par total of 275.

Michael Long became the first home player in four years to win the New Zealand Open after firing a final round four-under-par 67 at Paraparaumu Beach. Long, with a four-round total of 275, finished four strokes ahead of defending champion, Peter O'Malley, of Australia.

O'Malley shot a 66 in the final round to take second place, by one shot, ahead of his compatriot, Shane Tait.



Becker raises his arms to acknowledge the crowd after beating Ivanisevic in Munich yesterday

Henman savours valuable reward

Alix Ramsay believes Britain's No 1 player is richer for experience of defeat by Becker

The last few days in Germany have been a lucrative time for Tim Henman. On Saturday, he earned another \$43,250 (about £26,000) to add to his already bulging bank account by losing to Boris Becker 7-6, 6-3, 6-1 in the semi-final of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup. Although it took his annual earnings to a healthy \$853,247, the 1hr 50min he spent on court with Becker gave him something more valuable than any pay cheque: the knowledge that he can hold his own with the top players.

It was the first time Henman had been in such a situation — taking on the world No 6 in his own backyard — and, for a set and a half, he gave Becker a run for his money. Most people would have forgiven Henman for showing signs of stage-fright in front of an 11,000-strong German crowd, but the young man from Oxford was coolness itself. He started as he meant to go on, standing toe-to-toe with Becker, matching him ace-for-ace and having the temerity to threaten the famous Becker service.

Yet the gap between the top men and the young pretenders is a hard one to bridge and when it came to the key points in the first set tie-break, Henman did not have the power or experience to counter a player who has won six grand-slam titles in the past 12 years. "For the first set and a half, I was still hanging in there trying to create chances," he said, "but, at the end of the day, I think he's better than me. That's the bottom line."

Nevertheless, Becker was impressed with his opponent. "You improve by playing," he said. "He's only been on the circuit for two years and already he's come a long way. Who knows how far he will go. He has a great first serve, he's got good hands and he comes up with some surprising shots sometimes. All in all, he's a player with a good future."

Henman, for his part, knows exactly what he has to

do if he is to climb up the world rankings from his present position of No 29. There's a lot to be gained from a week like this," he said. "Boris definitely takes some beating, but it's a consistency thing. When I'm playing my best tennis, I'm able to stay with someone of his calibre, but it is his consistency — he's able to keep playing like that for four or five sets. At the moment, I probably couldn't do that."

When Henman will have time to spend some of his newfound wealth is open to question. He has only a few days



Henman: improving

off before the preparations start in earnest for the first tournament of the year in Doha and, from there, it is on to the Australian Open.

Much of that time will be spent in the gym as he tries to strengthen his slender frame. Standing off-lin and 1st lib, he knows he needs to be stronger. On Saturday, the sheer power of Becker, added to the years of dealing with the pressure points in pressure matches, made the difference.

"Yeah, I'm disappointed," Henman said, "but there's a lot of positives to take away from this and the experience I have gained from playing some of the best will stand me in good stead."

AAA to withhold financial support

THE AAA of England decided at its annual meeting on Saturday to resist offering financial assistance to the British Athlete Federation (BAF), despite having resources of £1.8 million (David Powell writes). The BAF has lost £750,000 in the past two years. "We do not want to pour money into the black hole that is the BAF," Eric Shirley, a delegate, said. "If there is money to spare it should go to our regions, where 100 per cent will be spent on athletics."

Geff Clarke, the AAA treasurer, expressed concern over a new television contract. "We have been unable to find out if this includes the AAA championship. There have been suggestions that only BAF championships will be included. If so, we shall try to obtain our own sponsor and TV contract."

Cook finishes first

ATHLETICS: Stephanie Cook, a final year medical student at Oxford, who won the women's University cross-country race on Wimbleton Common, only took up running when injury stopped her rowing. Cook is now concentrating on modern pentathlon. She is in the national squad but admits it will be hard to fit in training, and her ambition to reach the Sydney Olympics, with her opening two years as a doctor. The Dark Blues took all the team honours, winning the women's race, men's race — to level the series at 53 victories each — and Old Blues race.

Doncaster step down

FOOTBALL: Croydon moved above Doncaster Belles on goal-difference in the Women's Premier National League on after a 1-1 draw at Everton. Doncaster lost 3-2 at Arsenal in a pulsating match. The Belles went 2-0 up, through Vicki Edey and Karen Walker, before a second-half revival by Arsenal, who remain unbeaten, brought goals for Joanne Broadhurst, Kara-Lee Reynolds and Marieanne Spacey.

Sussex fall short

LACROSSE: Hertfordshire, skippered by the England captain, Lois Richardson, became the women's All-England Counties champions for the first time in ten years when they defeated Sussex 3-0 in the final at Newbury on Saturday. Hertfordshire had been Berkshire in the semi-finals, while Sussex edged out Surrey in the final four as they reached the All-England finals for the first time.

Male captures title

RACKETS: James Male, the world champion, underlined his dominance with a hard-fought victory over the former world champion, Willie Boone, to take the Lacoste British amateur championship. Male, 32, who had survived a hard-hitting struggle in his semi-final to defeat Guy Barker, eventually emerged the winner, 4-15, 15-11, 17-14, 15-10.

Hendry pockets award

SNOOKER: Stephen Hendry, the world champion, pocketed another top award last night when he was selected as the BBC Scotland Sports Personality of the Year, an award he won in 1989. Hendry made it a double as he was also named in the Team of the Year, with Alan McManus and John Higgins, his fellow World Cup players.

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Australia basks in barren nights and floodlit follies

The boys in the marketing department of the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) got their heads together and came up with "One Day You Will Never Forget" as their slogan for the limited-overs series this year. A nonsense, of course, as the essence of a one-day game is that it is forgotten before the next one begins, but the catchphrase works like the chorus of an insanely repetitive pop song.

For the sell-out crowd of 40,000 in Sydney yesterday, there were things to remember for a while, if not quite forever. The sun shone after a stormy 24 hours and Shane Warne took five wickets in 15 balls. After nightfall, although Curtly Ambrose smiled and bowed fast — things previously beyond him — Australia beat West Indies by eight wickets well before closing time. All reasons to be cheerful. Assess the game soberly, however, and it was still, one-sided, formalised.

Packer's shadow fingers are at every modern match, with the hard-won presence of his Channel Nine cameras and the commentary of men he signed as players to spike the ball.

nation that has taken against his tantrums, was out for 26 and dispatched to a rendering of *See You Later Alligator*. Sherwin Campbell's adieu was *Return to Sender*, and if Junior Murray was not sufficiently embarrassed by a dreadful dismissal to Warne, he had to walk off to *Hit the Road Jack*.

There is a great deal of international limited-overs cricket and the majority is mundane. To ensure that the crowds keep coming, ever more marketing devices are required. This, anyway, is how it is viewed in Australia, and they have more practice here than anywhere else.

Twenty years ago, the idea of floodlit internationals was still being ridiculed. Coloured clothing was a shocking notion. It was then, late in 1976, that Kerry Packer was losing his fight to televised Australian Test cricket, and thinking the plans that were to spawn the excesses now taken for granted.

Packer's shadow fingers are at every modern match, with the hard-won presence of his Channel Nine cameras and the commentary of men he signed as players to spike the ball.

Alan Lee, in Sydney, on the hits and misses of cricket's latest marketing ploys

been generally for the good. It is, however, the presentation of night cricket that, year by year, has altered almost beyond recognition.

Australian players to earn £200,000 a year from representing their country before any personal endorsements are added. In turn, the players are expected to be supportive in all areas of marketing, even those at which they may privately cringe.

Most players, for instance, deplore and resent the Mexican wave, considering it a potential distraction. The Australians cannot complain, for

it is actively encouraged by an advertisement for their Test-match sponsor, which depicts a plane load of passengers and air crew performing it. The first wave yesterday occurred after 14 minutes.

It is all part of the desire for audience participation. The English do not go in for this, clinging to the admirable but oft-misplaced belief that their spectators need nothing other than the cricket to amuse them in England, where domestic one-day cricket is absurdly overplayed, the international equivalent is harshly rationed. Australia

were happy to play five Tests and five one-day games on the Ashes tour next summer, but England insisted on a split of six and three.

Priorities here have shifted back towards Test cricket, but also they know their one-day market and stop a little to sustain and increase it. Lounge lizards are well fed. A recent poll identified cricket as the top television sport, so they are given valuable competitions and close access to their top cricketers.

Those at the grounds find that banners, prohibited in England, are promoted (there is a prize for the best each day). Children, tolerated elsewhere, are keenly encouraged. The ACB has set up face-painting stalls on each ground, and the Christmas merchandise features a Shane Warne kit how to bowl leg spin like the master. It is selling out everywhere.

Now before time, players wear large numbers on their backs for identification — it helps to persuade people to buy a programme, too. Automation now extends to the sight-screens, although the start yesterday was delayed because one was stuck in

commercial mode, but in a country where the competition of baseball, basketball and now even street hockey is being slapped down by the ACB, the American influence of sound and vision aids are the most striking change.

There was an experiment with individual songs for the entrance of each batsman — Glenn McGrath chose the Beatles' *Help* — but the send-offs are more popular. The symbiosis between giant screens and public address is sometimes agreeable enough, as when a show of racing results is accompanied by the drum of hoofbeats, but occasionally it strays into political dubs.

A shot of a shapely woman in the crowd brought a bugle call; pictures of police moving in to an unruly element of the crowd were joined by the sound of a cracking whip. Some spectators seemed amused, others shifted uncomfortably. They reacted as one only when Warne was twice on a hat-trick. Then, the noise rose, unbidden, to a deafening crescendo. Sometimes, even in the obsessively modern world of one-day cricket, the game can still speak for itself.



Lara hits out during West Indies' defeat yesterday

CRICKET: IMPROVED PERFORMANCE PROVIDES OVERTIME VICTORY ON TOUR OF ZIMBABWE

England show signs of turning corner

FROM SIMON WILDE

IN BULAWAYO

A WIN is a win is a win. Matabeleland may not be a power in world cricket, but, when you are as good as scalps as England, anyone's will do, and they gratefully accepted theirs at the Athletic Club here yesterday.

It was the touring party's first win in four matches in Zimbabwe and only their fourth in 19 games overseas in 1996, as against 14 defeats. Their previous victims were South Africa in Bloemfontein, and the United Arab Emirates and Holland, in Peshawar.

If England are to lengthen this list before the year is out, there is still much work to be done because, although this was a great improvement on the insipid display against Mashonaland last week, this was not an entirely convincing performance, even if the margin — 59 runs — was. It was late afternoon before another embarrassing defeat could be ruled out.

The best aspect of the day was the form and fitness of Michael Atherton, the England captain. He had not been expected to play, and did so against the wishes of David Lloyd, the coach, but he was clearly confident that the infections that he had last Friday to reduce the pain in his lower back had done the trick.

Opening the innings with Knight after England were put in, he helped them to their best start of the tour with a stream of crisp boundaries and looked set for a long stay. In fact, he miscued ball from Streak into the hands of silly mid-in in the eighth over when the score was already 45, but he had done enough to suggest that his bad trot was at an end. He later fielded enthusiastically and executed a smart run-out of S streak. I actually enjoyed fielding," he said afterwards.

Unfortunately, England squandered their good start. On a ground with a temptingly short boundary on one side, they should have reached 250, but the good work of Atherton and Knight who stayed until the thirtieth over for 58 — was undone by a succession of players hitting out. Hussain pushed a ball to wide mid-on, and Thorpe, Knight, Crawley and Russell — playing because Stewart was ruled out by a back spasm — were lured to their doom on the short side.

Andrew — an off spinner whose first-class wickets cost him 50 runs each on average, suggesting that he will be no great threat come the Test of the ground. For this, some credit must go to outstanding fielding — far better than England's later — and the bowling of the Whittall cousins, Andrew and Guy.

This pair could hardly be more different. Andrew is tall and academic, Guy short and outdoorsy, having worked on his father's big game reserve before turning professional — both of which contrasts contribute to their dressing-room nicknames of Whit and Halfwhit — but they shared the knack of strangling the life out of an England innings that had reached 120 for four after 30 overs, but only 210 for nine by its end.

Andrew — an off spinner whose first-class wickets cost him 50 runs each on average, suggesting that he will be no great threat come the Test

matches — removed Hussain and Thorpe and played his part in the partnership of 53 between Crawley and Irani, soaking up 14 overs. Guy's probing medium pace was rewarded with a wicket in each of his last four overs.

Another difference between the cousins is that Andrew is not a batsman and Guy is, as England already know from his innings of 58 and 36 not out in earlier matches on the tour. He came good again yesterday with a sound 35, which suggested that he may be a handful in the Test. Fortunately for England, he was let down by his supporting cast and it was soon clear that, of the two cricketing provinces in Zimbabwe, it is Mashonaland that have the monopoly on batsmen.

That said, England gave by far their best exhibition of bowling on the tour and it was this that gave Atherton most satisfaction. Mullally and Gough bowled with encouraging control for the first 12 overs — Mullally dispatching Craig and Dekker — Croft again bowled a probing spell and Silverwood showed the steadiness that got him on the tour and was so curiously absent in his first match, eight days earlier.

When James and Abrams were putting together Matabeleland's highest partnership of 47, in the middle of the innings, it was still possible to envisage an England defeat, but Croft removed both in four overs and the tail folded in the face of the rising asking rate.

While England showed signs of blowing the cobwebs off their bowling, there were indications that a few still clung to Olonga and Streak, Zimbabwe's likely new-ball pair for the Test matches. Olonga generated a good head of steam but finished wicketless, while Streak appeared cumbersome and well below his best. He has been out of action for several weeks with a groin strain and has plenty of catching up to do before the first Test match begins next week.

Hegg on song as England A wind up trip

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN BRISBANE

FEW cricketers can match Jack Russell, the England wicketkeeper, for the exuberance and enthusiasm he brings to his art. But Warren Hegg, who has emerged as a possible rival for his place, has both qualities in abundance, matched by a willingness to learn.

Hegg, 28, the Lancashire wicketkeeper, whose batting put him ahead of Keith Piper, Paul Nixon and Karl Krikken in the selection for the England A tour, has more than justified his inclusion in the 14-strong party with an impressive tally of 28 catches.

It is perhaps fitting, then, that Hegg will be playing against Ian Healy, the Australia wicketkeeper and the cricketer he admires most, when England A complete their tour with a four-day match against Queensland at the Gabba, starting tomorrow.

Hegg, who along with Adam Hollioake, the captain, are the only two players to have competed in every match of the tour, will take his place in a line-up which will not be finalised until the tourists take stock of various injuries.

Andrew Harris, the Derbyshire fast bowler, has a bruised foot and Jason Gallian, the Lancashire batsman, has a cracked right index finger. Both will have

rigorous net sessions at the Gabba tomorrow to prove their fitness.

Mark Ealham and Hollie- oake, who both suffered bruised fingers on the minefield of a pitch at Wollongong in the rain-hit one-day match against New South Wales on Saturday, are expected to be fit for selection.

ENGLAND A
M A Butler c Healy b Lee 26
M P Vaughan run out 3
A McGrath lbw Lee 16
A J Hobbs c Healy b Lee 0
H P Tait c Healy b Lee 23
D White c Chee Quee & Robertson 25
M A Ealham not out 70
A F Giles not out 15
Total (6 wkt, 30.4 overs) 154

FALL OF WICKETS 1-8, 2-27, 3-31, 4-12, 5-12, 6-12, 7-12, 8-17, 9-20.

BOWLING: Mullally 6-2-34-1; Gough 3-2-17-1; Silverwood 10-31-2; Croft 10-0-31-2; Ian Healy 10-0-4-1; Dekker 10-0-4-1; Mullally not out.

NEW SOUTH WALES: *R J Matthews W Atkinson R Chee Quee, *P A Emery S Lee S Nikatis C J Richardson S J Roberts G R Thompson D G Head J A Cameron A J Uprona J Cameron and A Jackson

□ The England Under-19 bowlers overcame a frustrating start to their four-day match against Pakistan Under-19 in Faisalabad to gain a firm foothold. After winning the toss, Farhan Adil (26) and Shahid Qambrani (68) built up an opening partnership of 91, helped by two dropped catches, but England worked through the rest of the order to leave Pakistan at 248 for nine at the close.

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Adams returns to haunt India

PAUL ADAMS, the wrist spinner, was the main reason why South Africa turned the tables on India on the first day of the third and final Test in Kanpur yesterday.

Adams, hit out of the attack during the morning session, returned to remove Rahul Dravid. Mohammed Azharuddin, the former India captain, and Sunil Joshi with three overs to reduce the home side to 204 for six by the close.

Tendulkar, whose side had looked in control for most of the day, was left isolated at the non-striker's end as four wickets tumbled for 33 runs after tea.

But the India captain, who ended the day undefeated on 43, knew that the wicket could benefit his side in the long run, with South Africa due to bat last on a slow, low and increasingly difficult track.

Tendulkar, whose team won

lasted just five more balls before McMillan, the all-rounder, removed his middle stump.

Mongia's partner, Raman, reached his half-century, claiming 11 boundaries on the way, but then drove at McMillan and saw the ball flash into Kusumbar's hands at gully.

Ganguly and Tendulkar seemed to have restored home advantage, taking India to 155 for two at tea.

Again, however, Hansie Cronje's men produced the perfect response, the South African captain trapping Ganguly leg-before on the front foot with the score on 160. Cronje and Fanie de Villiers then combined to bowl eight maiden overs in a row.

When Tendulkar looked set to break the spell, driving Symcox, the off spinner, into the long-on crowd for six, Adams, who had been hit for 23 off his first four overs, was recalled.

Openers overwhelm Pakistan

NEW Zealand concluded their tour of Pakistan with a convincing seven-wicket victory in the third and final one-day international in Karachi yesterday. Chasing a Pakistan total of 234-4, New Zealand completed an emphatic victory in the 46th over in front of a near-50,000 crowd at the National Stadium.

Nathan Astle and Bryan

Young established the platform for New Zealand's victory with an aggressive opening stand of 96.

Astle, who was named man of the match, scored 60 off 69 deliveries, including four fours and a six, before he was run out.

Three balls earlier Young, who had reached 32 from 38 balls, was caught by Wasim Saeed Anwar, c and b McMillan, 4-10, lbw 1, b 1, 1-13, 2-13, 3-13, 4-13, 5-13, 6-13, 7-13, 8-13, 9-13, 10-13, 11-13, 12-13, 13-13, 14-13, 15-13, 16-13, 17-13, 18-13, 19-13, 20-13, 21-13, 22-13, 23-13, 24-13, 25-13, 26-13, 27-13, 28-13, 29-13, 30-13, 31-13, 32-13, 33-13, 34-13, 35-13, 36-13, 37-13, 38-13, 39-13, 40-13, 41-13, 42-13, 43-13, 44-13, 45-13, 46-13, 47-13, 48-13, 49-13, 50-13, 51-13, 52-13, 53-13, 54-13, 55-13, 56-13, 57-13, 58-13, 59-13, 60-13, 61-13, 62-13, 63-13, 64-13, 65-13, 66-13, 67-13, 68-13, 69-13, 70-13, 71-13, 72-13, 73-13, 74-13, 75-13, 76-13, 77-13, 78-13, 79-13, 80-13, 81-13, 82-13, 83-13, 84-13, 85-13, 86-13, 87-13, 88-13, 89-13, 90-13, 91-13, 92-13, 93-13, 94-13, 95-13, 96-13, 97-13, 98-13, 99-13, 100-13, 101-13, 102-13, 103-13, 104-13, 105-13, 106-13, 107-13, 108-13, 109-13, 110-13, 111-13, 112-13, 113-13, 114-13, 115-13, 116-13, 117-13, 118-13, 119-13, 120-13, 121-13, 122-13, 123-13, 124-13, 125-13, 126-13, 127-13, 128-13, 129-13, 130-13, 131-13, 132-13, 133-13, 134-13, 135-13, 136-13, 137-13, 138-13, 139-13, 140-13, 141-13, 142-13, 143-13, 144-13, 145-13, 146-13, 147-13, 148-13, 149-13, 150-13, 151-13, 152-13, 153-13, 154-13, 155-13, 156-13, 157-13, 158-13, 159-13, 160-13, 161-13, 162-13, 163-13, 164-13, 165-13, 166-13, 167-13, 168-13, 169-13, 170-13, 171-13, 172-13, 173-13, 174-13, 175-13, 176-13, 177-13,

FOOTBALL: SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY EXPOSE FAILINGS OF ANFIELD TITLE HOPEFULS AS WIMBLEDON'S CHALLENGE GATHERS PACE

Liverpool lose marks in test of potential

Liverpool 0
Sheffield Wednesday 1

BY DAVID MADDICK

IF THERE is a defining image of this match, it is of Steve McManaman, arm raised in futile demand of the ball. He was man-marked, with Peter Atherton the celebrity stalker, but that is routine for the Liverpool forward. Shadow or not, he still pleads for service. On this occasion, he did not get it.

Much was made of Sheffield Wednesday's use of their captain to contain the England international, but that rather missed the point. It was not that McManaman was subdued, but rather the supply lines to him. McManaman showed that, even with sparse service, he could still be dangerous, and yet his team-mates seemed incapable of getting the ball to him.

"We didn't play with our heads, we did not play intelligent football," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said. "Steve McManaman was man-marked, yet he still had chances when he got the ball. But if we don't get the ball to him early, if we don't pass the ball with sharpness, then we will have problems, and that's what happened."

The match was a tactical success for David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, but not for something as simplistic as man-marking a danger-man. Four times Liverpool managed to get the ball to McManaman in the first half, with Atherton behind, and four times he was fouled. Eventually, a yellow card arrived. Another ball, another foul, and a red would have followed.

It did not, because Pleat's masterplan was not simply to shadow McManaman, but also to swamp Barnes and Thomas. Such was the industry of Hyde, Pembridge and Whittingham that the Liver-

pool midfield barely saw the ball, let alone possession enough to craft the bullets for the forwards to fire.

Evans talked of finding alternatives under such circumstances, but if Liverpool have a weakness, it is here. McAteer and Bjornby were imprecise on the flanks, and the three central defenders simply not comfortable enough on the ball. If the midfield is shackled, the wing back formation is designed to allow the sweeper to step up with the ball to create options. It does not work when, like Ruddock, the sweeper simply hoofs long balls down the field.

Pur simply, Wednesday snapped and snarled in their terrier-like pursuit of the game, to such an extent that they forced the home side into mistakes that cost them the match. Indeed, the only surprise in a first half that Wednesday dominated was that they did not score more.

Booth headed over and Pembridge blasted wide within the first two minutes, then Nicol almost crowned an impressive return to his former club with a near-post shot that James clawed out. Pembridge again volleyed wide, before he showed that his inaccurate shooting does have its uses.

After 21 minutes, McAteer, searching for McManaman, again gave the ball away to Atherton, who found Pembridge. His shot was woeful, but was mis-hit to such an extent that it found Whittingham, lurking towards the right edge of the penalty area, and his first stab found the net via the goalkeeper and post.

Only then did Liverpool look interested, but, as Evans said: "We can't afford to start playing when a third of the game has already gone." What little they did create came through McManaman, who forced an error from Pressman, only for the goalkeeper to atone with a fine

save from Fowler after McAteer had hit the post.

McManaman found the woodwork himself in the second half with a soaring header, and Pressman saved well from Fowler, again, and Berger. In truth, though, Liverpool's casual arrogance like this, when they can frustrate and pick up the scraps rather

than take the responsibility of forcing the creative pace. To go higher, they will need more guile in midfield, and a more convincing presence alongside the willing Booth.

Does any team want to win the title? It appears that Liverpool do not, such is their poor home form. Two points from

the last nine hardly suggests championship material, but the similar reluctance of their chief rivals offers some consolation. Throughout the match, a percussion section among the Wednesday supporters banged out a mesmeric beat. Such a rhythm, to their passing, is what Liverpool must

rediscover if they are to be champions.

LIVERPOOL (3-5-1): D James — M Wright, N Ruddock, P Babu (sub: M Barnes), C Bjornby, J Nicol, J Barnes, P Berger, S1 Bjornby — S McManaman — R Fowler.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-3-2-1): K Stoenescu, S Neal — P Atherton — Whittingham, G Hyde, M Pembridge — Carboni (sub: R Blinker, 78) — A Booth. Referee: M Reed

Atherton, right, the Wednesday defender who so effectively marked McManaman, briefly turns his attentions to thwarting Thomas

they apparently thought was theirs by right, denied them the claim of injustice.

Wednesday move up to ninth in the FA Carling Premiership, but they are still a side in the making, more comfortable on afternoons like this, when they can frustrate and pick up the scraps rather

than take the responsibility of forcing the creative pace. To go higher, they will need more guile in midfield, and a more convincing presence alongside the willing Booth.

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Such a rhythm, to their passing, is what Liverpool must

Kinnear keeping his dream alive

Sunderland 1
Wimbledon 3

BY MARK HODKINSON

THE question was simple enough but, for a second, Joe Kinnear's honest blue eyes wavered and not a word was spoken. Caught dreaming, he hurriedly summoned cliché and ambiguity to hide his apology — an excusable reaction, surely, since the question had never been asked before: could Wimbledon win the FA Carling Premiership?

"We'll take each game as it comes," he muttered on Saturday. "I don't want to put extra pressure on the lads. All I can say is that it has taken me seven years to put this squad together, and if we can stay injury-free and we're still in this position with six or seven games to go, we are going to be as hard to beat as anyone."

The subtlety was manifest, despite the linguistic fog. Kinnear believes that Wimbledon can win the league. And why not? His team is second only to Arsenal, is unbeaten in 18 matches and, most significant, is playing a mature, confident brand of football.

Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, suggested that it was "men against boys", and while this slightly overstated the disparity, Wimbledon's cunning and ruthlessness was beyond the ken of blood-and-thunder Sunderland.

Reid's team works at one pace, an extremely fast one with which rudiments such as passing and dribbling are merely coincidental. Sunderland attempt to draw the air from the match until, more by effort than design, opponents end up gasping for breath, wondering how the ball ended up in their net. Wimbledon were, in effect, playing against the ghosts of their former selves.

These days, however, in players such as Leonhardsen, Earle and Ekoku, they have statesmen able to rise above ignoble physical squabbles. They stepped gracefully through the blur of tackles, their minds and feet always two seconds in front of their earnest pursuers.

Wimbledon's intelligent approach was apparent throughout. They had clearly passed a watchful eye over their opponents. Perez, quite rightly, was earmarked as being perturbed by players in close proximity.

Robson feels heat 31
Woking wonders 31
Fry survives 31

so, at every free kick and corner, Blackwell contested the six-yard area.

The first goal came from Ekoku's forehead smash after some head tennis in the Sunderland penalty area. The same player added a second with a crisp shot from a fine pass by Gayle. Sunderland's first shot came when Rae tested Sullivan from distance ten minutes before half-time.

Sunderland courted hope briefly when Melville headed in direct from a corner but five minutes later, Ekoku embarked on a stalwart run between defenders, the ball ricochetting to Holdsworth, who curled it adroitly past Perez.

"We're going to win the league," the clunch of Wimbledon supporters sang, while Sam Hamman, the club's owner, hugged every player as they left the pitch. In contrast, there were grumbles from the Sunderland supporters. Although unequivocally beaten by the better team, they were right to ponder why Reid had played just one striker, Russel, and left the club's best player, Bridges, on the substitutes' bench until nearly an hour had elapsed.

Reid was not hiding his respect for Wimbledon. "They deserved the victory," he said. "They are very well organised. I am hoping my lads will see it as a lesson learnt. I am not going to go raving mad at the lads after one defeat against a very good team."

Kinnear cheerfully accepted every after-match request for an interview. The same simple question was asked repeatedly. His eyes began to twinkle again, the smile grew broader. Wimbledon, just 19 years on from their Football League debut — a 3-3 draw with Halifax Town — are set for a Premiership title challenge. The dream goes on.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-1-1): L Perez — D Kubok, A Melville, R Ord, M Scott — K Gayle (sub: M Bridges, Somer, P McLean, V Jones, N Amoruso) — A Rae (sub: M Gray, B C Russell).

WIMBLEDON (4-3-2-1): M Sutton — K Cunningham, D Blackmore, C Perez, M McLean, R Banks (sub: M Hart, M Jones, M Gayle (sub: D Holdsworth, TSI, E Blackmore)). Referee: K Burge

Iversen receives highest praise

Coventry City 1
Tottenham Hotspur 2

By IVO TENNANT

COMPARISSONS may be odious, but they are also inevitable. Upon arrival at Tottenham Hotspur's training ground last week, Steffen Iversen, their new forward from Norway, signed for £25 million, was asked which number he would like to have emblazoned on his shirt. Unwittingly, but much to his pleasure, he opted for the talismanic figure of 18, once worn with distinction by Jürgen Klinsmann.

The comparisons did not end there. Indeed, they were carried on by Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, long after this well-merited victory. Iversen, he reckoned, not only looks like Klinsmann but plays like him, too. "He has two good feet, pace, ability in the air, gives Teddy Sheringham more space and I have seen him score lots of excellent goals in Europe."

By the time Francis had finished this giddy discourse, he had made you believe Iversen was a world-beater. There is, though, the matter of burden of expectation. Not many footballers from overseas have been, or will be, as successful as Klinsmann. Against Coventry City, having met his colleagues only the previous day, Iversen was given the ball all too infrequently.

However, he played a memorable part in Tottenham's second goal, scored by Sinton, which was the culmination of a four-man move across Coventry's goal initiated by Sheringham. What Iversen —

Time to give young talent a chance

STeve McManaman, complaints that foreign players have better technique. But is it true?

We have players with outstanding technique, but maybe not enough professionals at a high level, and that could be connected to the fact that there is no structure bringing schools into the development chain.

I was heartened by the news that Liverpool will boast the most advanced youth structure in England. Obviously, we are hoping that it will ensure the club's success in the future, but I do hope that other clubs will follow, because we need a stronger and broader base in our game.

It is an issue I have always taken an interest in. I am often cited as one of the successes of Liverpool's youth system, and I recognise that I am used as an example for other young players with designs on a professional career. I have got involved in coaching kids, too. I have taken several coaching clinics, and this week I went to Tidie Barn School in Stockport to take a look at how the youngsters are shaping up. I was impressed.

Some of the boys were as young as eight, but they had an energy and enthusiasm to be proud of, and great skills. And yet, in many ways, I don't believe the obvious love for the game by kids all over the country is being tapped as it might be.

Liverpool's academy will be based on the Ajax model, but too often in this country we are lagging behind other European nations when it comes to developing young players. Clubs all have policies, but they tend to work in isolation, without any real involvement in the schools. How many times do we hear

STEVE MCMANAMAN



on the need for a system overhaul

happened to me. I wonder how many decent young players never even get seen by clubs because of the flaws in their system?

Instead, why not have organisers going into schools, keeping in touch with the team coach, finding out who the best players are. Then they could be easily fed into the academies. I know that is what Liverpool plan to do, and I do hope that other clubs will follow.

Instead, we frequently don't even have school football teams any more. More and more you hear of under-resourced schools stopping their sports teams. It happened to me when I was at secondary school. For about three years we didn't have a team at all, and that seems common these days.

It is a shame, because if there was a recognised structure, starting in the schools at a young age, it could only

help our game. What happens now is fairly basic. Players are sent for trials on a hit-and-miss basis, usually just from certain schools. They have one chance, and that's it for a few years. It happened to me. I wonder how many decent young players never even get seen by clubs because of the flaws in their system?

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McCoist's steel provides Rangers with cutting edge

AS IF it were not enough to be a prolific forward, Ally McCoist has also proved to be a master of disguise. Listening to his carefree banter, one might suppose that the only leadership quality he possesses is the telepathic amiability that persuaded him to sign for Celtic.

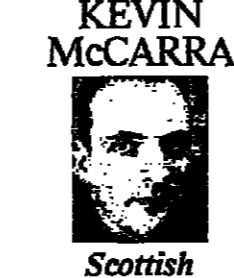
Leaping to that conclusion, however, carries a person bounding over the sort of distance normally achieved only by an Olympic triple jumper, so far removed is it from the truth. McCoist's features are always on the alert for the next joke, but the extent of the grin conceals the depth of the determination. He purveys remorselessness with a smile.

It is possible to count the precise number of occasions on which this fact ought to have registered. His brace, in the 4-3 win over Hibernian at Ibrox on Saturday, set a new post-war scoring record for league football in Scotland of 505 goals. The first 22 of them were banked with St Johnstone when he was still a teenager.

The only appointment McCoist is guaranteed to keep is the one that requires him to arrive in the six-yard box at precisely the right instant. "This is the earliest I've ever been late," he is supposed to have announced, proudly, when turning up for a club function only a little while after everyone else.

It is natural that he should

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish commentary

over Celtic in the Bell's Scottish League premier division. The advantage springs from the strength of purpose shown by McCoist and his team-mates while enduring all the hyperbole and anxiety that surrounds the attempt to equal the record of nine successive championships held by their Glasgow rivals.

Celtic have simply buckled. A 2-1 defeat by Motherwell at Fir Park shamed Tommy Burns's team as much as it damaged them. The Lanarkshire side lost their goalkeeper, Scott Howie, with a suspected fracture of the cheekbone after 64 minutes and had to replace him with Jamie Dolan, a small midfield player whom the referee books claim to be 5ft 9in.

Its consequence is the eight-point lead Rangers now hold

over Celtic in the Bell's Scottish League premier division.

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Kinnear
keeping
his dream
alive

FOOTBALL: EVERTON POSE TRADITIONAL PROBLEMS FOR GULLIT'S BLEND OF CONTINENTAL FLAIR

Ferguson brings old-fashioned values to the fore

SIMON BARNES

A two-year-old boy of my acquaintance, when asked something like: "What are you doing in that bathroom?", usually answers: "I'm creating mayhem." If you asked Duncan Ferguson what he was doing in that penalty area, he would give the same reply.

Everton came to Chelsea, the current capital of *nouvelle* vague football and home of everything exotic in the FA Carling Premiership, and set about them with the one great throwback of a centre forward left in the top-class game.

It made for a splendid afternoon of mayhem and grace, both sides providing both qualities, but mixed in different proportions. Chelsea's back line includes the lavishly praised Leboeuf and the richly promising Duberry, but Ferguson made mayhem among them all afternoon.

How hateful it must be to play against him. His size is bad enough; it hardly seems fair that he can leap like a stag as well. Also, he can play football, an altogether unfair advantage in a throwback. Worst of all is his unbridled delight in the fray, that terrible and intimate love of physical contact.

Chelsea set the Premiership pace at the start of the season — "early doors," as their manager, Rund Gullit said, with linguistic versatility — but subsequently showed that there is a flaw in their challenge. However, that is true of every other side in the top half. It makes for an intriguing, if sub-excellent, championship thus far.

Last weekend, Leeds United met Chelsea's speed of foot and thought with the ancient philosophy of "let's see how fast you can limp." Chelsea were kicked out of it and you wondered if Everton would try the same tactic.

Or perhaps they would start some serious kicking once they fell behind early on. The goal came through a volitional

free kick by Zola, the most elegant and obvious contrast to Ferguson. Zola and *La Belle Humaine*, if you like.

Football is essentially a contradiction, a game played without the precision tools of all man-like beasts, the hands. Yet precision and beauty are essential aspects of the game — hence Zola's curvy, swirlily, dippy 25-yarder.

Time, then, for a little mayhem. Ferguson is not head and shoulders above his opponents: when he leaps, he is head, shoulders and chest above them. The subtler defending tactics in the world are no good if nine out of ten high balls gets knocked down by an exuberant young giant.

Ferguson's knockdown made the first goal for Everton, shoved home by Branch, an 18-year-old whose wild caperings of celebration made it clear that this was his first senior goal. Everton then took the lead, thanks to a precisely struck 40-yard cross-field ball from, well, Ferguson, as it happened.

One of the many alarming things that can happen on a football field is disorientation. As the ball moves about, you can lose your sense of direction and the precise understanding of where everybody else is. That is why you constantly see

defenders reaching out to grope the man they are marking. You need to know where he is, and where the ball is at the same time.

Ferguson's pass soared sweetly over Clarke's head, straight into the stride of the man he thought he was marking. Kanchelskis is never backward in coming forward when there is a chance to run and shoot, and he did so to perfection.

Everton might have had more, such was the work of the mayhem man, but they were still mightily satisfied with their first half. Cue, then, a rather different second half. Chelsea put on one of the great pyrotechnic displays of the season thus far.

Zola did most of it, a joy to watch. Vialli scored once and might have had dozens. Zola hit the crossbar, Petrescu and Gullit did some mesmeric stuff along the right. One goal was poor reward for it all, but it was, at least, an awfully pleasant goal. Zola — Gullit — Zola — Vialli, a five-second dismembering of the Everton defence, one that seemed designed to prove, in that small fragment of time, that Premiership exotica are a legitimate part of modern football and can give throwbacks a decent game any day.

It was a splendid afternoon of football. I wonder how much more splendid it would have been without a pair of linesmen who seemed quite slavishly in league with the defenders. Every assistant referee is still a happy little flag-wagger at heart, so fearful of the flak he will receive for a mistake that causes a goal that he makes error after error the other way and stifles the life out of the game.

The problem is, of course, that the job is physically impossible. Your eyes simply cannot focus on the ball as it is played forward and on the front line at the same time and always, fearing catastrophe, or just from sheer love of involve-

ment in the game, linesmen give the benefit of any doubt to the defending side.

Referees are largely on top of one dubious tactic, that of kicking the opposition off the park — the Leeds v Chelsea game was something of a throwback in itself — but



Vialli wards off Speed, the Everton midfield man, at Stamford Bridge

when it comes to offside, a second dubious and game-killing tactic, we find officials actually in league with the forces of darkness.

Nevertheless, it was a rich afternoon that no jellied bellied flag-flapper could spoil. It came from two sides not quite

good enough. Yet this season is still there for the taking.

CHELSEA (3-2-1): F Goriely — M Duberry, E Newton, D Wise, S Monte (sub C Buckley 46) — G Vialli (sub F Sinclair 85), R Gullit, D Watson, G Petrescu, S Kanchelskis (sub P Keane), A Ward, G Speed, A Archibald 5 — M Branch (sub G Stuart 71). D Ferguson. Referee: P Durkin.

Referee: P Durkin.

Managers share sanity in a maddening world

Leicester City 1

Blackburn Rovers 1

By RUSSELL KEMPSON



ARSENAL
Arsenal 45
Vans 50
38/18

Arsenal: J. Walker, L. Dicks, N. Wetham, P. Vokes, S. Bent, A. Adams, D. Park, I. Wright, P. Merson, A. Drogba (sub: P. Shaw, 77min), J. Hartson.

Derby County: R. Houghton, C. Powell, D. Powell, I. Simms, D. Sturridge, A. Asanovic (sub: C. Daily, 83min), A. Ward, J. Lester, S. Flynn (sub: M. Carson, 80), P. McCullough.

Referee: M. Bodenham.

CHELSEA
Talis 12
Vall 55
38/18

Chelsea: F. Gomes, D. Petrescu, R. Gullit, F. Llorente, S. Chakar, G. Vialli (sub: F. Sánchez, 85min), D. Wise, M. Duberry, S. Mirel, C. Barley, 45). S. Ferrini, G. Zola (sub: S. Ferrini, 25).

Everton: N. Gould, E. Benetti, A. Hendrie, D. Uncork, D. Whelan, D. Ferguson, S. Keane, J. Parkinson, A. Gaunt (M. Branch (sub: S. Steket, 71min)).

Referee: P. Durkin.

COVENTRY CITY
Whitelock 60
19/5/75

Coventry City: G. Dwyer, B. Horner, (sub: P. Taffell, 79), R. Shaw, P. Williams, D. J. Jones (sub: J. Gossage, 79), N. Whelan, D. Duberry, G. McAllister, J. Salter, D. Hockney.

Tottenham Hotspur: J. Walker, J. Howells, C. Calverton, C. Wilcock, S. Campbell, J. Cox, A. Hickox (sub: D. Dozzell, 80min), R. Fox, A. Smith, E. Sherington, S. Kerrison.

Referee: G. Willard.



FIRST DIVISION

BARNESLEY
Heads 72
Wilkerson 75, 89

BIRMINGHAM
0 0 GRIMSBY

CHARLTON
Leeds 38
Wells 79

CRYSTAL PALACE
Dix 18, 63
17/3/95

HUDDERSFIELD
Payne 34, 55

IPSWICH
12/04

MANCHESTER CITY
Kirkless 3 (pen)

Dickens 12
3/03/95

OLDHAM
5,590

READING
6,445

SHEFFIELD UTD
Kearns 14

STONE
Shay 27
Hayes 22 (og)

Yesterday

WEST BROMWICH
Prestwich 48
Taylor 90 (pen)
12/02

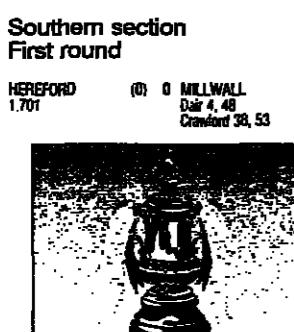
WINDSCREENS SHIELD

Southern section

First round

HERTFORD
1,707

0 MILLWALL
Dair 4, 48
Crawford 38, 53



FA CUP

Second round

BARNET
Simpson 7

Hodges 68

BLACKPOOL
4,563

0 EDMONTON
O'Connor 87

BRISTOL CITY
Goddard 13

Ajani 2, 48
Vale 25

Hawkins 25

Yesterdays

WEST BROMWICH
Prestwich 48
Taylor 90 (pen)
12/02

WINDSCREENS SHIELD

FA CUP

Second round

ALL
Dovey 16

0 3 WYCOMBE
McKenzie 59

Williams 60, 77

3,176

BLACKPOOL
4,563

0 0 EDMONTON
O'Connor 87

BRISTOL CITY
Goddard 13

Ajani 2, 48
Vale 25

Hawkins 25

Yesterdays

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Taylor 90 (pen)
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Hodges 68

BLACKPOOL
4,563

0 0 EDMONTON
O'Connor 87

BRISTOL CITY
Goddard 13

Ajani 2, 48
Vale 25

Hawkins 25

Yesterdays

WEST BROMWICH
Prestwich 48
Taylor 90 (pen)
12/02

WINDSCREENS SHIELD

FA CUP

Second round

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Rob Hughes sees Barcelona, and an Englishman abroad, bow to the might of Madrid

DESMOND BOYLAN

Real power poses threat to Robson's reign in Spain

The euphoria that was Bobby Robson's a few short weeks ago, the relish in particular of being guardian to Ronaldo, arguably the world's greatest developing talent, left the English manager in Spain abruptly, deep into Saturday night.

Where Real Madrid's marvelous second goal went in against his Barcelona team in the second half, Robson was slumped in the corner of the dugout, a man alone in a crowd of more than 100,000 at Real's Bernabeu Stadium, a man whose every response to what players young enough to be his grandchildren were doing was being monitored by five hundred million television viewers in 40 countries. This is what football managers call "pressure".

Many of those suffering souls who never grapple with anything more complicated than the English game would say that they would swap dugouts with the Durham miner's son for his million-pound salary. Little do they appreciate that one defeat, notably a 2-0 defeat to the imperial power from Madrid, quickens tempers in Catalonia, where Robson's task is, first and foremost, to defeat the enemy from the south.

He is trying something even more special. At 63, Robson seeks to conclude probably his final challenge by adding the Spanish league title to the championships he managed in Holland, with PSV Eindhoven, and in Portugal, with FC Porto. What does a manager, any manager, do when the opposition scores twice, and his own team shows the spirit to come back, strike the woodwork twice, and the footballing world sits in judgment? After a ten-hour build-up for this 144th encounter between Real and Barcelona, the rigour and order that Fabio Capello, released last summer by AC Milan, has so quickly ingrained into his side, were better than the liberalism that Robson allows his individuals, culled from Portugal, France, Romania and, of course, Brazil.

He needed something like Brit-

ish never-say-die spirit against Capello's equally cosmopolitan squad. He got it from Luis Enrique and Guardiola, but the mercenaries — fellows like Popescu, Figo and Giovanni — only seemed prepared to run so far. At that point the legs were run off them by players representing a club trying to see off a mountain of debt and simultaneously to recapture the honour of being called "the best side in the world".

The goals, though so different in style, were claimed first by a Croat and then a Montenegrin. After 24 minutes, Roberto Carlos, the Brazil left back, swung in a low, curling free kick. It was missed, negligently, by Luis Enrique and the Frenchman, Laurent Blanc, but even more negligent was to leave David Suárez, a man already renowned for his predatory instincts. "This night is the biggest in the world after a World Cup," he had said. Suárez, dark, lean and upright, finished with the stealth of a ravenous man.

It that goal was harsh, given that Barcelona were then achieving the aim of possessing the ball and frustrating the Madrid aficionados, the second strike four minutes into the second half, was pure class.

It came with the smoothness, almost the indolence, with which seemingly every fan in this awesome, five-tiered stadium peeled the silver foil off their ham sandwiches during the break. Zip, zip and zip again went the passes. Secretario, from Portugal, began the inspiration from right back. His pass to Hiero was

volleyed with the instep. Hiero strode forward and released the ball from the centre circle. From there, the two former Yugoslavs, Suárez and Mijatovic, worked on and off the ball, and joined with the surging Dlincharan, Seedorf, to carve cutting openings in the Barcelona resistance in the space of split seconds.

It must have been almost a relief when those representing Catalonia saw the sheer brilliance, the toying with their defenders, end with the ball gently lobbed forward by

Seedorf and artfully passed into the net by Mijatovic.

Where was Ronaldo, the Brazilian for whom Manchester United would allegedly pay £20 million? He was there, and how we knew it. Everybody was interviewing him, following him, praising and occupying him. The young man had his knee operated on long before his twentieth birthday, and he had this mammoth television audience dissecting, frame by frame, some of the astonishing dribbles,

amazing two-footed techniques that make him the leading scorer in the Spanish league, with 13 goals in his first 16 games.

Whatever Mancunians may wish, he is the property of Barcelona, whose response to even a sniff of a bid was to offer him another half a million pounds on his £1.3 million salary. Would Manchester offer Ronaldo's family the Mediterranean climate of Barcelona? Would they find a villa as luxurious as this young genius's family enjoys rent-free? Would Nike, his

other paymaster to the tune of £750,000 per annum, want him transferred to the city of Umbro? Business interwoven with sport.

Not just because Ronaldo's head is shaved, not just because he has a fully developed and imposing build, he appears quite manly, and certainly undisturbed by the clamour. Outside, as youths not far short of his age attempted to climb the giant towers of the stadium, Ronaldo confirmed that he is flattered by Manchester United's interest, flattered by comparisons to Cruyff and Pele, but said: "I am happy where I am, I have a long way to travel for Barcelona and for Brazil. I want to win the Spanish title and the World Cup, and I think both are possible."

From the youth to the men who bought him. A harsh observer will have seen how grey and forlorn, how apparently old, Robson looked in his silliness, compared with Capello. "Capello has demonstrated his class tonight," Luis Fernandez, the former France international, who was one of a great phalanx of managers and coaches drawn to "the game of the century", said.

Robson, even in defeat, showed his defiance. He argued that his players had created opportunities; that, even two goals down, they had shown spirit. This man, who managed England in the frenzy of the Azteca Stadium with its 14,000 audience, who had taken Ipswich Town through a 0-0 draw against Real Madrid decades ago, insisted: "Defeat tonight had nothing to do with the atmosphere. Sure, it was electric, fantastic. But these players of mine are internationals. Their performance today, and for the rest of this season, is up there with Real Madrid... and I tell you we will be very much closer to them when we meet again, at our place, towards the end of the season."

Closer than first and second? History, the whole defiance of the Catalonian people, demands something higher than closer. They will be *numero uno*, or Robson will be retired.

'Robson was slumped in the dugout, a man alone in a vast crowd'

It that goal was amazing, two-footed, muscular might that make him the leading scorer in the Spanish league, with 13 goals in his first 16 games.

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Ronaldo feels the full weight of Secretario's tackle during the summit meeting in Spain

FA CUP: CAMBRIDGE THE LATEST TO SUFFER AT THE HANDS OF VAUXHALL CONFERENCE TEAM

Dismissal pegs back Enfield

Enfield 1
Peterborough United 1

By NICK SZCZEPANIK

THE sight of footballers kissing is nothing new; managers however, are another matter. But then George Borg, of Enfield, (the kisser) and Barry Fry, of Peterborough United, (the kissed) are something of a mutual admiration society. "I've worked for him, I've played for him, I love him to death; he's great," Borg said of his mentor after the drawn FA Cup second-round game at the ICS League club's Southbury Road ground on Saturday. Fry was only slight

Glen Hoddle, the England manager, and Bobby Robson, one of his predecessors, who is now in charge of Barcelona, will make the draw for the third round of the FA Cup tonight. The draw will be shown live on BBC2 at 10.15pm.

SECOND ROUND REPLAY DATES: December 17: Wycombe Wanderers v Barnet (7.45); Peterborough United v Enfield (7.45); Barnet v Wrexham (7.45); Stevenage United v Wrexham (7.45).

less effusive about Borg, once captain under his management at Maidstone.

To tell the truth, the bonhomie was probably fuelled partly by relief on both sides that they were still in the competition. Either team could have been eliminated during a frantic final minute, which encapsulated the drama of the Cup, even if the match as a whole did not. First it seemed Peterborough must score the winner in a scramble inches from Enfield's goal-line. Then the ball was hacked clear to Ammon, who set off on a blistering 50-yard run that was only stopped by Gremmick's dive at his feet.

"Although we got in good positions, Pape didn't have a shot to save. Enfield fought like tigers, which you expect from George's team, and deserved to get a replay." Such was Fry's verdict as a manager; and in his other role, as owner? "I need the replay — I need the money."

Borg is also looking forward to the return at London Road.

"The players deserve another crack at it," he said. "We'll be prepared and we'll give it go."

"Barry's got some quality players even though they are not doing well in the league. Knowing him as I do, he'll turn them round and I hope that will happen after we beat them at Peterborough."

ENFIELD (4-4-2): Pape; A. Hoddle, S. Terry, J. Cestari, P. Underwood; P. Morris, M. Edwards (sub: J. Gentle, 76min), G. Gremmick, R. Ammon, S. West, S. Hodge (sub: M. Hodge, 64). PETERBOROUGH UNITED (4-4-2): B. Gremmick; G. Head, J. Edwards, M. Boddy, S. Clark, R. Ammon, S. Hodge (sub: A. Boothroyd, 82), T. Chardley, M. Canthrew (sub: G. Grizzell, 72), P. Parker, G. Foley.

Walker breaks the deadlock to send Woking marching on to glory

Cambridge United 0
Woking 2

By WALTER GAMMIE

THIS time, Clive Walker admitted, his match-winning stroke of genius had a hint of luck.

Woking's FA Cup second-round tie against Cambridge United at the Abbey Stadium on Saturday was, he felt, heading for a draw unless somebody "tried something a little bit different". Given unexpected room 25 yards from goal outside the top left-hand corner of the Cambridge penalty area, Walker floated over a high, hanging cross to the post.

He had reasoned that Scott Barrett, the Cambridge goalkeeper, had dealt with his previous couple of crosses — flatter, quicker and aimed at the middle. "I thought I'd hit the ball long to see if I could find Darran Hay or someone beyond the far post," Walker said. "When I looked up, I thought, if it bends, it's going to go in."

Bend the ball did, and brushed off the post into the net. The goal, in the 74th minute, might have been blessed with luck but it was the kind earned by calculated premeditation from a player who is a past master at trying for every little bit going.

Nor was Woking fortunate to win. The Vauxhall Confer-



Walker: approached

Hednesford dance into third round

By KERTH PIKE

WOKING'S FA Cup exploits may have become something of a routine, but there was no disguising the joy felt by their Vauxhall Conference colleagues, Hednesford Town and Stevenage Borough, as they furthered the cause of the "fifth division" on Saturday.

Both clubs travelled to Nationwide League opposition and both returned savouring well-deserved places in the third-round draw.

Hednesford's triumph over Blackpool, secured with Joe O'Connor's goal three minutes from time, prompted John Baldwin, the manager, to dance a jig of delight across Bloomfield Road. It was, he said, "a dream come true and the greatest day in the club's history."

For every winner ... stew-

ards had to protect Gary Megson as supporters of the club that won the Cup in 1953 called for the manager's head.

Vicki Oyston, the Blackpool chairman, refused to be panicked. "I've got to look at the long-term interests of Blackpool," she said. "I don't believe in knee-jerk reactions."

Stevenage, who, but for a controversial decision to deny them automatic promotion, would have been competing against Leyton Orient as third division equals, rammed home the point with a 2-1 triumph at Brisbane Road. The Conference champions were ahead inside a minute through Corey Browne, pegged back by Channing's header, but in front again before half-time thanks to Neil Catlin. Peter Shilton, in the Orient goal, had little

chance of stopping either goal.

Boreham Wood came within six minutes of forcing a replay against Luton Town at Kenilworth Road, but it can go horribly wrong for the minnows. St Albans were swamped 9-2 by Bristol City at Ashton Gate, while Agostino scored four, while Ashford Town conceded five goals in the second half to Watford at Vicarage Road.

Sudbury's FA Cup journey had started at Gorleston in September and proceeded via the prospect of a replay against Luton Town at Kenilworth Road. By the time that they had reached the competition proper for the first time, beating Brighton was a breeze. On Saturday, though, class told.

Brentford were too composed, too determined and ultimately too fit for their Dr Martens League rivals. With six former Colchester United players in their ranks, Sudbury had chosen Layer Road — scene of a quarter of a century ago — as the venue. Yet if they sought inspiration, they found only frustration and, but for the heroics of Steve Mokler, their defiant, diminutive goalkeeper, it could have been a humiliation.

Bolton pay the penalty for Branagan error

West Bromwich Albion 2
Bolton Wanderers 2

By RICHARD HOBSON

A

THICK fog lingered over the West Midlands yesterday, but at The Hawthorns the promotion credentials of Bolton Wanderers remained clearly visible. All good teams chisel out results when they are some way off their best, and that was the case as Bolton extended their lead at the top of the Nationwide League first division to three points against a West Bromwich Albion side that overcame a number of injuries to display a tenacity that enabled them to twice come back from behind.

However, Bolton were not

entirely happy with their afternoon's work. But for a moment he compared to Bobby Charlton — bald pate, two good feet, ambassadorial qualities and all. Walker has been approached by Rushden and Diamonds to become their player-coach. Under contract with Woking, he insisted the decision is not his. "It's up to the management committee — the ball is in their court," he said.

Chapple said, "Chelsea,"

Bolton manager, said,

the Woking manager, said,

"He's worth at least £100,000

more than that £9,000. I'm

going to have trouble keeping him. I've already got clubs

looking at him."

It is keeping hold of a rather

more senior figure that is his

immediate concern — a 39-

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Packers prepare to come in from the cold

Frank Emment Jr is not a nationally known figure, but he is a celebrity in these parts. His fame has lasted for more than a year now, since the day when the light plane in which he was a passenger crashed a couple of hundred miles from here, at a place called Stevens Point. The doctors who treated him said his life had been saved because he was wearing a giant piece of cheese on his head. The cheese, see, was there as a sign of allegiance to Green Bay Packers, the team from small town, blue-collar America that is threatening to rip the Super Bowl away from big city stickers such as Dallas Cowboys and San Francisco 49ers this year and inject a rare sense of sentimentality and romance into American football.

Packers supporters glory in the nickname "Cheeseheads" because of the prevalence of dairy farming in Wisconsin. Emment's escape, a result of the cheese cushioning the impact when the plane crashed on its way back from a Packers game in Cleveland, merely confirmed

Team is the town's only source of pride'

Denver Broncos in a game many predicted was a preview of next month's Super Bowl. Led by one of the best quarterbacks in the league, Brett Favre, and the fearsome defensive end, Reggie White, the Packers have already qualified for the end of season play-offs.

But they are no passing fad. Support for them pervades the community in a way that puts even the passion of, say, Newcastle

Oliver Holt discovers small town supporters in Green Bay dreaming of being big cheeses in American football again

United supporters in the shade. Everywhere in Green Bay, men and women, young and old, traditional and trendy, wear the Packers' green and yellow shirts, sweatshirts, anoraks and leather jackets. Manchester United have got nothing on this kind of market penetration.

There are other signs, too. At one of the only two cinemas in the downtown area, they are showing *A Time To Kill* on one screen and Packers games on the other. And outside the Holiday Inn, the best hotel in town, three flags flutter: the Stars and Stripes, the Wisconsin State emblem and the Packers insignia.

Part of it, perhaps, is that the Packers are the town's only source of pride, the only thing that puts a timber-trading town dominated by paper mills, its packing company and its port on the map; the only thing that draws attention to it. It goes without saying that there are no other professional sports franchises here. The next best thing

after the Packers are minor league ice hockey games between Green Bay Gamblers and teams such as Fargo Ice Sharks.

But there is more to it than that. Somehow, the Packers have come to get nothing on this kind of market penetration.

They are an anachronism in American sport, a small-town club that has survived alongside giant concerns such as the Cowboys.

They are the only professional sports team in the country that is publicly owned, run by the Packer Corporation, which compromises about 200 shareholders, many from the surrounding area.

These things have guaranteed them their status as America's favourite underdog, the team forever trying against the odds, to recapture the glorious days of 30 years ago, the days of the Ice Bowl here at Lambeau Field, when the Packers beat the Cowboys in the coldest game in National Football League history, the days when they and their legendary coach, Vince Lombardi, left their imprint on the nation forever by winning the first two Super Bowls.

Those days, of course, coincided

with the television explosion and the first glimpse many Americans had of professional football was of men fighting against the elements as well as their opponents. The first words from the coach: "The head were not clichés, but the rousing moral exhortations of Lombardi.

"Unless a man believes in himself," Lombardi said, "and makes a total commitment to his career and puts everything he has into it, his mind, his body and his heart,

what is his life worth to him?"

After he died, they named the Super Bowl trophy after him for speeches like that:

Since Lombardi left in 1969, the Packers have never had another realistic shot at winning the Super Bowl, but this year it might be their time. Last week television news crews descended en masse on Green Bay, all wanting to explore the Packer phenomenon.

They were told little snippets about the peculiarities of life in the frozen north, where parts of the Bay are already thick with ice. There are so few African-American

cans in the community, the coach, Mike Holmgren said, that a barber is hired to come up from Milwaukee once a week to cut the hair of the black players who make up about half the team.

Twice a week, "soul food" like

yams, fried chicken, chilis and greens is flown in to make the players feel more at home. A Director of Family Programs has also been appointed to try to make it easier for new players to settle in,

although one cannot help feeling it is so isolated here. It is the type of place that would make Emerson's wife embrace Middlebrough with open arms.

The players, almost to a man, say they love it here, that the local people have showed them nothing but kindness and affection; that the lack of distractions has brought them all closer together and kept them out of trouble. "If people need a larger place, a New York City type of place," Holmgren said, "then Green Bay is not for them." Maybe not, but it is still a cheese head's idea of heaven.

CYCLING

Ball pursues initial steps to distinction

BY PETER BRYAN

THEY share the same initials and Chris Ball is hoping that, one day, he will emulate Chris Boardman, Britain's pursuit world champion and record-holder. Like his idol, Ball made a speedy start to his racing career as a junior. He set a British record for 25 miles in 1992 and also won the national track pursuit championship that year.

He has already been dubbed "CB2" but maintains that if he can win the British pursuit title, then target the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, he will be happy.

This year, after not competing for most of 1995 because of a torn Achilles tendon, Ball has been able again to show the promise of his potential. He was in the winning Harlow Velodrome squad that took the national team pursuit title and on Saturday, representing London, he had an outstanding pursuit victory in the Key 103 Euroleague in Manchester.

Five riders started 50 metres apart on the 250-metre track and Ball and Ronny Lauke of Dortmund, made short work of catching their Amsterdam, Manchester and Cardiff opponents. In the last circuit of the 12-lap race, Ball closed to

within 15 metres of the German to win with a fast time of 3min 27.73sec. "I was easing the pace because there were other events for me later on the programme," he said.

Ball's victory gave London third place overall in the competition but Dortmund, with 36 points, and Amsterdam, on 30, were convincingly superior squads.

The availability of Britain's first permanent indoor track has taught the 22-year-old Ball a lot. To compete regularly throughout a 12-month season, he will need what he calls "recovery breaks" which he plans after the national championships next year and other leading events, including the first five Premier Calendar road races.

Roger Hammond added the South of England cyclo-cross championship at Dover yesterday to the London Open title he won last week, dominating the ten-mile race from the start. He finished 1min 55sec ahead of Andrew Taylor, with Brian Curtis a further 30 seconds behind.

Matthew Guy retained his Midlands title over 14 miles at Derby, beating Dean Barnett and Steve Knight, champion on six previous occasions.



Seeing is believing for Gladishiva at Vail and she duly celebrates her unexpected super giant slalom victory. Photograph: Ed Andrieski

Gladishiva again favoured by late start

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

IN THE most surprising event of the still-young World Cup season, Svetlana Gladishiva, of Russia, raced from far back in the pack at Vail, Colorado, on Saturday afternoon to win a women's super giant slalom and claim the first victory in her ten-year career. Starting 32nd, Gladishiva, 25 from Liviv, recorded 1min 17.97sec to

snatch victory from Fernilla Wiberg, from Sweden, who already had accepted congratulations for what seemed like being her second victory of the winter in the discipline.

Wiberg settled for second place in 1min 17.97sec, while Carole Montillet, of France, another late starter at 29th, claimed third in 1min 18.1sec. Katja

Seizinger, of Germany, the overall World Cup leader, finished ninth, her worst result of the season, but leads Wiberg in the overall standings, 414pts to 535.

"I can't believe I won," a beaming Gladishiva said at the finish, a moment after letting out a wild scream when she saw the scoreboard. Later — and calmer — she said: "Not bad, huh?"

After some 27 inches of fresh snow fell over the previous two days, the top racers scrambled to select advantageous starting positions. Gladishiva, though, who had little choice in when she would race, may have been helped by her late start, for the sun had left the course, making it colder and faster.

Although she had never finished higher than thirteenth in a World Cup super giant slalom, she had a precedent of late-start success in the event. At the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, in 1994, she took the silver medal after starting 35th.

Gladishiva surprised nobody more than herself. "I didn't expect even to do well and I never had the feeling I was skiing so fast," she said of her run on a course that favoured downhill specialists.

Even after her apparent victory had disappeared, Wiberg was happy with her result and her strongest start in eight World Cup seasons. "In super-G, nothing is finished and the tradition of Vail is that the course holds, even improves," she said. "My goal is to win

the slalom championship. Anything after that is extra."

Like Gladishiva, Montillet was ecstatic with her result. "I expected nothing like this," she said.

The super giant slalom was the second stage of a unique double race day necessitated when a snowstorm pushed the downhill, scheduled for Friday, back a day. Renate Goetschl of Austria, won the downhill event in the morning. Similarly, the World Cup season's opening men's super giant slalom was cancelled yesterday because of a heavy overnight snowfall and poor visibility at Whistler Mountain, British Columbia. The downhill was cancelled there on Saturday.

Weekend results, page 39

HOCKEY: PREMIER DIVISION LEADERS SUFFER SETBACKS AS FEMALE COUNTERPARTS AGREE TO JOIN FORCES

Cannock draw small comfort

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

CANNOCK, Southgate and Old Loughtonians, the top three teams in the premier division, all suffered setbacks as the National League officially went into its winter recess yesterday. Cannock, however, regained the leadership, despite a 2-2 draw with Guildford.

Southgate lost 2-1 away to Teddington, who profited from an increased work rate in the second half. The Southgate defence had earlier lost Dutchie, who suffered a shoulder injury in a collision and was taken to hospital.

Gibbons, a former Teddington player, had given Southgate the lead in the twelfth minute. Nicklin equalised from a short corner four minutes later, with the winning goal from Conway coming eight minutes from time.

Southgate will have a chance to redress the balance when they play Teddington again on Saturday and Cannock and Southgate

Women vote to join with men

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MONICA PICKERSGILL, president of the All-England Women's Hockey Association, admitted to a huge sense of relief after revealing that the AEWHA had followed their male counterparts in voting to dissolve the association and form a single governing body.

Reading enjoyed a 3-2 away victory against Old Loughtonians in a hard fought match. Ashdown converted a short corner in the 22nd minute to put Reading in front, but Dover equalised in similar fashion four minutes later. Two quick goals — Peart from open play, and Slay from a short corner — gave Reading a firm grip on the match. A confrontation between Morrison, of Old Loughtonians, and Ashdown led to both players being temporarily suspended, before Thompson reduced Reading's lead in the 57th minute.

Pickersgill admitted that she was disappointed, but not surprised, that only 21 per cent of the membership had exercised

their voting rights on such a crucial issue, adding: "I still believe that the majority of women were very, very positive about what is at stake and, of course, some were a little sad about dissolving our association."

"I'm delighted that we made such a clear decision and feel excited that we can now move ahead and carry the game forward for the benefit of all those involved in English hockey."

The chief executive of the Hockey Association, Stephen Barnes, said that forming one body would not only satisfy the International Hockey Federation's wish that countries either unite or have an umbrella union by the year 2000, but that the move also opened up the promise of extra funding from the Sports Council and the National Lottery.

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JUDO

Britain set to invest in new crop of talent

BY JOHN GOODBODY

BRITISH judo woke from its Olympic nightmare on Saturday. A new generation of talented young fighters began the arduous struggle towards the 2000 Games when they competed in the national championships in Bath.

The lessons of Atlanta have yet to be digested. An inquiry into why, after six consistently successful Olympics, Britain failed to win a judo medal this summer will be published later this month.

Colin McIver, the Scottish national coach, who chaired the investigation, said yesterday: "It will advocate radical changes. The system has not worked. However, it is important that rash decisions should not be made and it may take a few months for a proper system to be introduced."

Time is important. The Sports Council want to see proper planning for Lottery funding for individual competitors become available in March. There is little doubt that judo, and a large number of other Olympic sports, are going to benefit enormously from a properly-funded structure.

Young fighters, such as Winston Gordon, will be among the beneficiaries. Only 20, he climaxed an outstanding year, which has included a European junior bronze medal, by winning the middleweights on Saturday with the dramatic leg throw that slammed Kevin Lynch on his back.

Gordon took the title in the absence of Ryan Birch, the former European champion, who, like most of the Olympic team, preferred to miss the event.

Most of those that did compete understandably were jaded. Julian Davies, a featherweight, who came second in the European championships, lost to Simon Moss, who looked a solid prospect.

The only member of the Atlanta team to win a title was the 32-year-old Joyce Heron, the Scottish bantamweight, who will provide proven guidance for a new generation to pit their skills against.

"I'm not getting any younger but I still enjoy competing," Heron said. "However, I know fighting internationally is a different kettle of fish. I'll just take it as it comes."

Nevertheless, she was not the oldest competitor on Saturday. That was light heavyweight Terry Watt, who will be 50 this month. He exercises six times a week and battled through to seventh place.

He competed in the European championships in 1969. In 1972, he represented Ireland in the Olympics and won a bronze medal in the world universities' championships. His continuing dedication was an example to everyone. As the Japanese, Hagakure Bushido, wrote: "There is no end to training. Once you begin to feel you are a master, you are no longer on the way you are to follow."

NETBALL

England seeking boost from youth

BY LOUISE TAYLOR

SPORTING grazed knees and ponytails, English schoolgirls have played netball since the First World War and, superficially at least, the game today seems reassuringly similar.

In reality, though, the sport is adjusting to the demands of the 1990s and confronting a number of issues in the process. There is sexual equality, with males increasingly playing, particularly in primary schools. Then there is violence, with a proposal to introduce football-style red and yellow cards. There is even amateurism, with the England netball team theoretically eligible for National Lottery-funded subsistence grants of up to £28,000, which would enable the players to turn professionals.

Perhaps more significantly, the wind of change is also gusting through the England team, which has replaced Kendra Slawinski. The latter may have retired, but she is now coaching the next generation of international netballers.

That progression through the ranks has been fostered by Fiona Murnagh, the new England captain, who has replaced Kendra Slawinski. The latter may have retired, but she is now coaching the next generation of international netballers.

Moving forward, however, sometimes entails a step back and this is how the recent 3-0 Test series defeat to a touring Jamaica side is being seen at Netball House, the game's Hertfordshire base. That series saw the senior debuts of five players promoted from

Ayr pay dearly for early injury as Nottingham win ice hockey cup



Cupola is denied by a desperate block from Robins, the Nottingham goaltender, as another Ayr attack crashes on the Sheffield ice. Photograph: Victoria Mathers

Panthers play role of party animals

Christopher Irvine discovers supporters taking centre stage in a musical revival

In one sport at least, the Mexican Wave is old hat. Crowd participation in ice hockey is now a choreographed art form, sometimes more entertaining than the organised mayhem the spectators turn up to watch, and when Nottingham Panthers and Ayr Scottish Eagles met on Saturday night, they went head to head with James Brown, Little Richard, Gary Glitter and The Beatles. Nottingham prevailed in the Benson and Hedges Cup final, but not until their supporters at the Sheffield Arena had hip-hopped and happy-happy-shaken themselves to a frenzy in their 5-3 victory.

A family-friendly Barony Army has attached itself to ice hockey, a growing audience — the turnstiles clicked two million times last season — of whom 60 per cent are under the age of 30 and 40 per cent are female, one that devours fast food and faster entertainment. Every stoppage in play is the cue to get up and do the Macarena — to name but one dance — and when the foot-stomping stops and the action restarts, the risk is of anticlimax.

Some among the 8,500 at Sheffield did go over the top, of course. They were asked to refrain from firing party poppers onto the ice. Yet anyone catching the puck could keep it as a souvenir, as if sticking your hand out to stop a frozen piece of vulcanised rubber travelling at 100 miles an hour is a good idea.

wise fellow, was on his best behaviour and a total of three two-minute sin-binings in an hour of high-speed collision represents, in ice hockey terms, a clean contest.

As if it were possible, the game is speeding up, so perhaps the time to knock lumps from one another is diminishing as standards in a slimmed-down, eight-team Superleague increase. Improvements and the breaking down of all barriers to foreign players, who account for three-quarters of those plying

their trade in the Superleague, are no coincidence.

Nevertheless, the Department of Employment might not be so liberal with work permits in future, so the Superleague had better make the most of its mainly Canadian exiles. Curiously, the first final in the Superleague era featured none of the well-heeled clubs from Sheffield, Cardiff or Manchester. Nottingham have done more than any team to bring in local players, while Ayr are new kids on the rink.

Nottingham are struggling in the Superleague, in three years, thumped down a jeroboam of Veuve Clicquot before answering questions. Sven Rampf, in the Ayr goal, the game was up after just 29 seconds. Two more goals slipped beneath Rampf in a disastrous first period before he succumbed to a groin strain. Colum Cavilla's net-minding improved matters, notwithstanding the, illegal, side-footed fourth. Hadden goal by Greg Hadden. Kilted supporters tried to intimidate the Panthers' bench, but Jiri Lala's final score for Ayr was merely a gesture as time expired.

The jubilant Panthers, in celebration of their second

Lynch may rue selection mistakes

BY NORMAN DE MESQUITA

AN ICE hockey coach probably makes more decisions in the course of one evening than the average cricket captain has to make in a month. The most crucial, as in cricket, often concerns who should be playing and Jim Lynch, of the Ayr Scottish Eagles, had such a choice to make before the Benson and Hedges Cup final in Sheffield on Saturday. He got it wrong.

His No 1 goaltender, Sven

Rampf, had been in wonderful form, but had a niggling groin problem. Having to change direction quickly in

the first minute of the game, he tweaked the injury and Nottingham Panthers had the lead after just 29 seconds. A crazy deflection gave the Panthers a second goal, but although the Eagles pulled one back, it was 3-1 to Nottingham with only a quarter of the game gone and, two minutes from the end of the first period, Rampf having been beaten by three of ten shots he had faced, bowed to the inevitable.

His replacement, Colum

Cavilla, could not have played much better and was named the Ayr man of the match at the end of the evening, but not before he had conceded two goals. The first of these proved how high the odds were stacked against Ayr. Even without the advantage of video replay, used in the National Hockey League in North America but not in this country, it was clear to the television viewer that Greg Hadden kicked the puck into the net.

Lynch might also regret

playing Alan Schuler, who had not appeared since breaking his jaw in the semi-final six weeks ago. Schuler seemed to have problems with the pace of the game and it was his mistake that led to the third Nottingham goal, just when the Eagles seemed to be coming back into the game towards the end of the first period.

Jiri Lala did give Ayr some

hope when he made the score 5-3 with more than 12 minutes remaining, but they could not find a way through the well-organised Nottingham defence again.

Thus Mike Blaisdell, the Nottingham coach, showed how good he is at preparing his team for an important one-off occasion. Now he is hoping to repeat such form in the league.

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SAILING: OLYMPIC GAMES SILVER MEDAL-WINNER WITH THE WORLD AT HIS FEET OUTLINES HIS NEXT OBJECTIVES

Ainslie decides to stay with Laser

Edward Gorman on a yachtsman who is engagingly modest about his success

FOUR months ago Ben Ainslie gave the profile of yacht racing in this country an immeasurable boost. At 19 he was the youngest ever member of a Great Britain sailing team. He went on to become the youngest ever medal-winner, capturing a silver after a thrilling dog-fight with the world No 1 in the Laser class; Robert Scheidt, of Brazil.

Ainslie single-handedly put the sport on the front pages and made the biggest impact in the television coverage of sailing at the Games, introducing yacht racing to many who have never followed it before, among them many young girls and boys determined to follow in his wake.

Alongside him at the medal ceremony in Savannah were Britain's other success story at the Olympic regatta, John Merricks and Ian Walker, who won silver in the 470s, but it was clear even then that Ainslie's precocious talent had made him the feature of the Games for British yachting.

Since coming back Ainslie has been given various achievement awards and has been in demand on the children's television circuit. He has been offered book contracts, and his name has been mentioned — with or without his permission — by all sorts of people in yachting who want the shine of his medal on their latest project.

Several such protégés were in action during the monthly Inter-Counties League fixtures on Saturday. The season is still young but England's leading county, Essex, are already favourites for the title and came to a 78-57 victory against Nottinghamshire. Britain's fastest young

yachtsman has, however, got his feet firmly on the ground. Next season he has turned down the opportunity to join the crew of Merricks' Mummu 36 in the British Admiral's Cup team. He has turned down the chance to helm a Melges 24 on the European circuit, as well as numerous other sailing invitations.

Instead he is staying with his Laser, where his focus and ambition are as ferociously intense as at any time in the past 12 months. His first objective is to retain his European title next year in Portugal and then win the world championships in Chile next October. That will mean another showdown with Scheidt, who has won the title twice already and is hunting a third. "It would be nice to beat him before — I haven't beaten him before — it would be nice to sort that out," he said.

In the long run Ainslie's goal is gold in Lasers at the Sydney Games in 2000, which was his original plan last year, until he found himself going for Savannah after winning the national trials. Meanwhile he is back

French pair added to list of casualties

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

TO FINISH first, first you have to finish: in no other yacht race is that more true than the Vendée Globe single-handed non-stop round-the-world race. The weekend saw two more competitors fall by the wayside in the Roaring Forties, reducing the field, originally 15-strong, to ten.

The leading skipper, Christopher Auguin, of France, on *Geodis*, is 500 miles ahead of his nearest pursuer, but still has 15,000 miles to go to the finish. The latest casualties were his compatriots, Yves

Parlier, on *Aquitaine Innovation*, and Thierry Dubois, the youngest skipper in the race, on *Pour Amnesty International*.

Dubois was the first to report his retirement, when lying in eleventh position on Friday night, after he hit something drifting past the boat that broke his starboard rudder just below the hull.

"I am giving up, I haven't got the strength to do a third start," a dejected Dubois, who was 2,700 miles behind Auguin, said. He was on his second start after a similar collision in the Bay of Biscay had forced him to return to Les Sables d'Olonne shortly after the fleet set off on November 3. Parlier had led the race on the way south through the Canaries until his forecast

broke. He managed to rig a replacement, and was holding third position — about 700 miles adrift of Auguin in the Indian Ocean — when he hit a growler, a small piece of ice that had broken away from an iceberg and snapped his port rudder.

"I can't repair this on my own," he reported from a position about 850 miles southeast of Cape Town. He is now sailing to Albany, Australia, for repairs.

Parlier joins fellow French skipper Isabelle Autissier, who broke a rudder last week but has restarted from Cape Town, and Didier Moundguy, and the Hungarian, Nandor Fa, in being put out of the race.

Those still at sea include the two Britons, Pete Goss, on *Aqua Quorum*, who is seventh, and Tony Bullimore, on *Exide Challenger*, who is tenth.

Mike Golding, on *Group 4*,

the new leader of the BT Global Challenge as the yachts continue westwards through the Southern Ocean, where conditions have moderated and brought welcome glimpses of the sun. Andy Hindley, on *Sure The Children*, who led round Cape Horn, is second, with Merlyn Owen's *Global Teamwork* third.



Ainslie chewing over the offer of book contracts

BASKETBALL

Salary cap suspicions give Bears sore heads

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

THE expertise shown by rival Budweiser League clubs in keeping within the salary cap has long mystified Colin Smith, the Worthing Bears director, who would rather lose good players than bend the rules by exceeding the £15,000 limit per team.

It was after his struggling Bears had succumbed 95-78 at home to the Leopards on Saturday that Smith spoke out. Like most of the previous nine teams to have defeated them in the league this season, the Leopards employed five Americans, but whatever the temptations to match their success — the Leopards are now joint second — Smith will not bend the rules.

"Some clubs have the ability to work within the salary cap very well," he said. "It's remarkable how they get value for money, but if they could only explain to the Chancellor how they do it, the Government could benefit."

The departures during the summer of Colin Irish, the Bears' player-coach, and Alan Cunningham left Irish's successor, Cleave Lewis, fighting a losing battle, which was not helped by fortunes conspiring against two of the newcomers.

Ernesto Moreno, the sure-shooting Spaniard, could not settle, and Shawn Graham, the American, arrived with chronic knee trouble. The recent departures of both men have left Worthing with a vacancy that they would love to fill with Spencer Dunkley. The England international, who has fallen out with his French club, Limoges, would not come cheap, even if it was only for the rest of the season. "You know us," Smith said. "We won't spend money we haven't got."

Worthing have not been helped over the past two games by the absence of Neil McElduff, their coach, whose wife has just had a baby girl. "We expected him back tonight," Smith said. "We even had a bouquet ready for his wife."

Lacking direction in McElduff's absence, the Bears nevertheless possessed the game's top-scorer in James Hamilton, whose attempt to add to his 25 points ended in huge embarrassment. Going for a dunk on the final buzzer, the American made an undignified hash of his shot. Lewis collected five three-pointers among his 20 points, but with all ten Leopards on the score-sheet, headed by the 22-point marksman, John White, the visitors finished with plenty in hand.

In the 7-Up Trophy, Chester Jets made certain of their place in the quarter-finals by winning 104-100 away to Leicester Riders, whose coach, Bob Donewald, was ejected for the second time this season after incurring two technical offences for protests. Chester's scorers were led by Hilary Scott, with 24 points.

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THE TIMES MONDAY DECEMBER 9 1996

SPORT 35

RUGBY UNION: AUSTRALIANS BREAK SHACKLES IN TOUR FINALE AND SERVE UP FEAST OF ENTERTAINMENT FOR CAMPSE'S SWANSONG

Burke shows pattern of the future

Barbarians 12
Australia XV 39

By GERALD DAVIES

IN BRINGING to an end their 12-match tour of the Celtic countries, the Australians demonstrated once more their virtues of strength and power in taking the game forward. Their comprehensive ability in continuing to win and maintain possession of the ball is instrumental in this. "In such a way," Rob Andrew, the Barbarians captain, said, "we are capable of keeping a tight grip on any match." They did so here.

Having taken a 27-point lead by haltime, they had also displayed a facet of their game that they had hitherto refrained from showing. "As we are being a well-drilled team," Andrew said, "they're all exciting, quick and strong in the back line." Until Saturday this had been their best-kept secret on their undefeated tour, on which, in the main, they had failed to inspire.

With the international matches out of the way and the sense of national pride and fear of losing no longer so

ful results and
league tables Page 39

much at stake, the Australians were prepared, in facing the Barbarians, to gambit along in the spirit that so often injects their opponents' play.

The Australians gambled a little more, but were not extravagant in any sense. They were nonetheless willing to allow their three-quarters a full part in the proceedings. This gave Horan time to chase his arm and allowed Roff and Campese to enjoy opportunities to stretch their leg and indulge in the occasional sleight of hand, but it was the insistent intrusions of Mathew Burke, from full-back, that tantalised the crowd of 3,000.

He had a majestic afternoon. Indeed, for 39 minutes he had dominated the score-board so much that the 20 points that his team had scored all belonged to him.

Showing supremely controlled running, he had outstripped the beleaguered Barbarians defence to score two tries, converted both and kicked two penalty goals. He might have scored a third try had he not been tackled when shot of the line. With one play having accomplished so much, it was with a sense of relief that the crowd greeted another name on the scoreboard: Joe Roff scored the thirteenth, but, even here, Burke was the catalyst.



Right to the end of his career in an Australian jersey, which concluded against the Barbarians, Campese continued to delve into his bag of tricks

Campese's long, flighted pass, in midfield and deep in his own half, was in danger of arriving with Burke at the same time as a would-be tackler, but, full of pace and power, he showed that he had the delicate touch, too. His fingertip flip shifted the ball to create space for Horan, who paved the way for Roff to score the try. This completed Burke's peerless first-half performance.

With such an incisive talent in their midst, the test for the Australia management is whether, as Alan Jones and Bob Dwyer accomplished in the past with Campese, it has the desire and courage to allow such exceptional talent its head, for while the power of this Australian team is in no doubt, its overall potential looks vastly unfilled.

The foundation of their success in a match sponsored by Scottish Amicable was laid, naturally, at forward, particularly by a voracious back row that invariably won the mar-

ginal ball on the ground. They rarely committed the errors that the Barbarians did. Only Scott Quinnell could match them and he will, no doubt, force the Wales selectors to consider him before they announce this morning their

team to play South Africa on Sunday.

His efforts were duly rewarded with a try as the Barbarians made a gesture of response late in the second half. Bateman, who also had a fine match, scored the other.



Gavin illustrates Australian dominance at Twickenham

By this stage, though, the Australians had already extended their lead with tries by Campese and Horan.

For the Barbarians to make an impression on any future touring sides — if such fixtures are to continue — they need to fill their team with high-ranking players of proven ability at international level. A full complement was not present over the weekend.

This is a tall order, but, to play such rugby as they wish, the Barbarians must invite the best players. Their style, if it is to flourish, requires players of the highest talent, but that they are not always able to do so is out of their hands and is in the gift of others. Rob Andrew was unequivocal. It will be a very sad day indeed, he felt, if, in 50 years, we are in a position to lament the absence of the Barbarians.

While questions are raised on these shores about the value of the Barbarians' continued existence, the French, for their part, want to extend

their participation, as do the New Zealanders. As with so much else in the present traumatic state of rugby here, we can rely, no doubt, on the governing authorities to get this one wrong.

SCORERS: Barbarians: Tries: Satheren, Conversion: Andrew. Australia: Tries: Burke (2), Roff, Horan, Campese. Conversions: Burke (4). Penalties: Burke (2).

BARBARIANS: T Stimpson (Newcastle and England); N Waller (Cardiff and Wales); A Bateman (Richmond and Wales); D Garside (Leeds); T Underwood (Newcastle and England); R Andrew (Newcastle and England, captain); R Horan (Cardiff and Wales); P Popovski (London Wasps); M Wilson (Southland and New Zealand); D Garforth (Leicester); D McIntosh (Ponypridd); C Williams (Rugby Union); N Williams (Newcastle and Scotland); N Beck (Leicester and England); S O'Connell (Richmond and Wales); Simpson replaced by J Moore (Cardiff and Wales); A Morris (Richmond and Wales); Howley replaced by A Moore (Richmond and Wales); Townsend replaced by M Allen (Northampton); C Cuthill (Cardiff and Wales); D Garside (Leeds); G Williams (Cardiff and Wales); D Garside (Cardiff and Wales); D Beck (Leeds); Brad replaced by B Robinson (Cardiff); Caputo replaced by M Foley (Cardiff); Howard (Cardiff and Wales); Badde replaced by A Heath (76); Burke replaced by S Larkham (77m).

Referee: E Monson (Bristol).

AUSTRALIA: M Barker; J Roff, D Herbert, S Payne, D Garside, Captain: A Badde; D Beck; Brad replaced by B Robinson (Cardiff); Caputo replaced by M Foley (Cardiff); Howard (Cardiff and Wales); Badde replaced by A Heath (76); Burke replaced by S Larkham (77m).

Referee: W Daven (Wales).

Barbarian life over for one of a dying breed

David Campese is a disciple of the Oscar Wilde school of publicity. There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about — and that is not being talked about. So, the man who has life-size pictures of himself pinned to his bedroom wall had his web site number printed on his baseball cap on Saturday. Out of sight, maybe; out of mind, never.

It was appropriate that Campese should leave the international field in the company of the Barbarians, except that he was on the wrong side. There has always been much of the Barbarian in Campese, a love of freestyle, a hatred of the straitjacket, of the creed that states that thou shalt not try to run the ball from your own half nor in any way place entertainment above a dedication to victory. The paradox with Campese is that the first self-proclaimed rugby millionaire (in life, perhaps) should actually preach the most amateur of attitudes.

He was at it again in a Radio 5 Live interview on Saturday morning, shamelessly provoked by Ian Robertson, the interviewer, into his favourite rant. English rugby was "a joke," he said, way beyond the southern hemisphere in terms of commitment to attack, stuck in a sterile world of forward domination and tactical kicking.

He poured scorn on Jon Sleightholme for daring to suggest that England were able to compete with New Zealand and Australia — "after all, he has played three tests now, so he must be an expert" — and ridiculed Jack Rowell, the England coach, for suggesting that defeat by the New Zealand Barbarians was part of the "learning process". Australians, he suggested, did not go onto the rugby field to learn.

Unfortunately, Rob Andrew, the butt of much of the Campese's criticism in the past, lent some weight to the claims with some schizophrenic dithering behind the Barbarians scrum at Twickenham. At one point, the most Ruthless exponent of the keep-it-tight brigade went to kick routinely for touch, changed his mind and tried to run the ball from behind his own line.

Campese might have got away with it, but Andrew has never been cut out for the compulsory triviality of Barbarian rugby. He was buried just as the truth of his terrible mistake dawned.

"I like Barbarian rugby because you can actually go

out there and express yourself," Campese said. "That's how we play rugby, that's Australian style, we don't have to change. When there are a lot of British players in the team, it's running the ball is very hard because they're not used to doing it at a very high level. They love to try, but, after a little while, they go back into their shells."

The unpalatable truth for Campese is that the Australia team can no longer afford his style. Had he not retired, this would have been his last game, anyway. He was dropped halfway through the tour and, in his last two games, at Cardiff and Twickenham, he was no more than a peripheral figure. Even his try, roundly applauded by most, was a sneaky little affair, a five-metre dummy and dash rather than a loping goose-stepping run to the line. In the error-free zone that is the new Australia, there is no room for wild spirits or impossible thoughts.

The wider fear is that Campese's farewell, a modest affair for such an immobile man, will mark the symbolic decline of the Barbarians, too, as fixture lists become more congested and international teams more efficient. When injuries cost money, players might not be so willing to put themselves out merely for a philosophy, nor will crowds be so eager to watch no contests.

In the meantime, Campese can be found on <http://www.campe.com.au>, on the Internet. The site features a diary, a scrapbook of back-page headlines, news of his Australian tour and the main heading "Campe to meet Queen at Buckingham Palace." It will surely be an honour for Her Majesty.



At Twickenham

South Africans pledge to turn Wales match into a festival

France 12
South Africa 13

From DAVID HANCOCK
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN PARIS

TIE hard part of their tour, of their year, is over. South Africa's best players have a week in Wales before returning home at the conclusion of what their coach, André Markgraaff, describes as "the toughest international year in the history of our country," and they are going to enjoy themselves.

Only one training session is planned this week before the international against Wales on Sunday, which Markgraaff describes as a "festival game." This may not be so

so Kevin Bowring, his opposite

number, sees it, but Markgraaff is entitled to relax. For a man who received death threats after his choice of the touring party — in particular the decision to omit that most recent of Saracens, François Pienaar — the last month has provided something of a justification.

It produced two victories in Argentina, two victories over France and a promise that the ultimate benefit will be seen against the British Isles next summer. A lot can happen before then, however, as the French can remind Markgraaff: his players have to pick an injury-free way through the Super 12 tournament before the British Isles team arrives.

Two first-choice wings, a centre and a stand-off were missing from the France team that failed by so narrow a margin to win a frustrat-

ing match at the Parc des Princes on Saturday, never mind a prop and a lock. Of that sextet, Philippe Saint-André and Olivier Roumat will miss the five nations' championship, which removes authority, experience and try-scoring potential from the side.

Yet France, lifted by a powerful display by Pelous at the lineout, came within touching distance of a win that would have squared the series — the final act saw Kruger defeat Lamaison's injury-time dropped goal, from much the same part of the pitch that Castaignede dropped the goal that beat England last season. They did so despite an error-strewn, tactically-flawed performance that must raise a doubt over the state of South African rugby.

We are trying to change our

whole game plan in South Africa," Markgraaff said. One that is not hinged upon defence, which was crucial on Saturday, but employs the varied talents of his team and which could be duly discerned. Yet there are few new names in this team, it is firmly underpinned by those who won a World Cup 18 months ago and it lapsed into the habit that has, on occasions, let down such powerful provincial sides as Natal in the Currie Cup.

When South Africa had achieved a ten-point lead they sat back and failed to impose themselves. The quality of their defence is such that they have good reason to rely upon its absorbent qualities, yet only Derek Bevan's interpretation of a knock-on denied Venditti a try. Dourthe nibbled away the lead with penalties and any team that places

itself in a position where a fortuitous dropped goal can deny them can hardly claim significant playing authority.

There was a mature patience to South Africa in the first half, a period when Gary Teichmann seemed everywhere. Indeed the first five minutes encapsulated the match: a bustling French start, confident sidestepping by Lamaison and a diagonal kick into the South African 22 only for the lineout to be lost and Honiball's powerful boot to take play back beyond halfway. At times Honiball was less than accurate but is almost always assured of gaining ground.

The game's only try was excellent, a movement drifting right before the ball travelled left through Kruger, in the scrum-half position, Andrews playing midfield and Dally accepting Olivier's deft short pass. That is the rub of Markgraaff's ambition for his team: three forwards comfortable in their exposed role in the middle of the park.

SCORERS: France: Penalty goals: Dourthe (4) South Africa: Try: Dally; Conversion: Honiball (2).

FRANCE: J-L Dubernard (Colombes); L Leferme (Bordeaux); R Dourthe (Clermont); S Glos (Boulogne); D Verdier (Bordeaux); C Lamaison (Bordeaux); G Accornero (Bordeaux-Boulogne); C Calleiro (Toulouse); M Pichot (Toulouse); F Tronchet (Toulouse); P Bonnet (Agen); O Mette (Montauban); P Pelous (Dax); R Casel (Bordeaux); A Benazzi (Agen); captain: Bertrand replaced by M Lapeyre (Toulouse); Grimaud-Tournon replaced by J-J Grimaud (Agen).

SOUTH AFRICA: A J Joubert (Natal); J T Small (Natal); J C Moller (Tulane); H P le Roux (Transvaal); J Dill (Northern Transvaal); W Botha (Northern Transvaal); H Venter (Northern Transvaal); D Theron (Caledon West); J Dalton (Transvaal); A C Garside (Natal); R J Kruger (Transvaal); D Honiball (Transvaal); G Andrews (Natal); A G Venter (Free State); G Teichmann (Natal, captain).

Referee: W Daven (Wales).

Jenkins puts the boot in

Pontypridd 53
Bridgend 9

By A CORRESPONDENT

WHILE all around talk of the glitz and glamour of European rugby, Pontypridd, the perennial bridesmaid of Welsh rugby, have an agenda far closer to home. The Welsh League, much maligned this season and without a sponsor for closer to home, is, and always has been, at the top of the Sardis Road list of priorities.

In Saturday's unfashionable valley club enhanced its choices of lifting the domestic title for the first time as they swap aside Bridgend, the team with the most pacersets, with a six-try, 50-point advantage.

Jenkins has kept a relatively

interval. Bridgend capitulated. Further penalties from the kicking duo left the score at 18-9 as the hour mark approached, but Pontypridd, whose back row became increasingly dominant as the game wore on, stepped off a gear.

Pontypridd's challenge this season has been constructed on a 15-man game, a style that was rewarded when Prosser, the fifth sin-bin rower, ran all of 70 yards to receive a scoring pass in the corner.

Jenkins converted with aplomb and Pontypridd moved another step closer to that elusive title.

SCORERS: Pontypridd: Tries: G Lewis, G Lloyd, S Lewis, J Lewis, P Lewis, Conversions: Jenkins (5); Penalty goals: Jenkins (8). Bridgend: Tries: G Williams, M Williams, G Lloyd, G Lewis, G Lewis; Conversions: M Williams, G Lewis, G Lewis, G Lewis; Penalties: M Williams.

Eagles prove a cut above

Reading 50
Widnes 3

By MICHAEL AYLWIN

ARE foreign imports good for English sport? It is a tender, though hotly-contested issue, at the moment, but most discerning observers agree that a measured sprinkling of genuine quality from abroad represents the most balanced and productive recipe for any one club.

Convincing support for this theory was served up in Berkshire on Saturday, as Reading swept into the fifth round of the Pilkington Cup, inspired by the two US Eagles who joined them this season.

Marc Scharrenburg is a

bulldog of a centre and made an impressive debut for the third-division club, but the catalyst for victory was André Bachelet, the scrum half and captain of the United States national team.

Mark Scharrenburg was the only scorer in a first half that was predictable and often frustrating for the 5,000 who braved the elements. After losing the Wales centre, Gareth Thomas, with a damaged patella, Jason Forster Evans (41); E Williams replaced by C Vope.

"We have come over here looking for regular competi-

to two tries in the second quarter, from Tom Ellis and Chris Martin.

Martin came at the end of some gloriously sweeping Reading continuity, Scharrenburg punching through to the Widnes posts and No 8 Martin Hart working the ball to the winger. It was an ominous precursor to Reading's second-half performance.

Five sparkling tries followed for Reading. Bachelet scored his brace, while Paul Guttridge, Ian Armstrong and Hart claimed one apiece. Phil Belshaw's kicking took the Reading total up to 50.

SCORERS: Reading: Tries: Bachelet (2), Ellis, Martin, Hart, Guttridge, Belshaw; Conversions: Bachelet (3); Penalty goals: King.

Twickenham '96

Saturday 14th December

The Save & Prosper International

England v Argentina

KO 3.00pm preceded by

Royal & Sun Alliance

Colts County Championship Final

K

Football maintains regional bias

By JOHN GOODBOY

JUST as Lancashire clubs dominate professional football, so their local schools are producing a disproportionate number of successful teams and players. The boys seem inspired by the proximity of clubs such as Manchester United, Liverpool, Everton and Blackburn Rovers who, between them, have won 14 of the last 20 Premiership and old first division titles.

Of the 22 boys who will attend the trials in January for the England Under-15 team, 13 come from the North West. In the Goodyear Under-16 trophy, this region has provided winners in four of the last eight years.

Malcolm Berry, the chief executive of the English Schools Football Association, says the North West is unusually strong at the moment. "Next year won't be quite the same, but this area does play a lot of competitive football, and the need to be competitive rubs off on the boys. It also helps that in places such as Manchester and Liverpool there isn't far to travel between the schools."

The North West has not been as dominant in the older age groups, however. In the



Intense rivalry and the proximity of professional clubs has helped the North West to dominate schools football

Requests for county court hearing date

Perry v Wong
Sampson v Moon
Jones v Roe Shopfitting Ltd
 Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice Auld and Sir Brian Neill
 [Judgment November 25]

In a county court action, to which the automatic directions regime applied, a request by the plaintiff for the fixing of a hearing date if made after the expiry of the six-month period prescribed by Order 17, rule 1(3)(d) of the County Court Rules but before the expiry of the 15-month period provided by rule 119 was valid even though there had been no preceding request for an extension of the six-month period.

The Court of Appeal so held:

- Allowing an appeal by Robert Perry from Mr Recorder Carside, QC, who, sitting at St Helens County Court, had held that his personal injury action against the defendant, Kang Ho Wong, had been automatically struck out under Order 17, rule 11 of the County Court Rules 1981 (SI No 1687 (L 20)) as substituted by County Court (Amendment) No 31 Rules 1990 (SI No 1764 (L 17)).
- Dismisssing an appeal by Dave Moon from Judge Alan Morgan, who, sitting at Wigan County Court, had held that the personal injury action brought by the plaintiff, Gary Sampson, had not been automatically struck out under the rules.
- Allowing an appeal by John Jones from Mr Recorder Grimes, QC, who, sitting at Manchester County Court, had held that his personal injury action against Roe Shopfitting Ltd had been automatically struck out under the rules.

In each case the plaintiff, although not requesting a hearing date to be fixed within the six-month period prescribed by Order 17, rule 1(3)(d), had made such a request within the 15-month period provided by rule 119. The defendant had applied to the court for a ruling that the action had been

struck out on the ground of non-compliance with the rules.

Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC and Mr Graham Wells for Mr Perry; Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC and Mr Philip Grundy for Mr Sampson; Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC and Mr Sean Grundy for Mr Jones; Mr David Stockdale, QC, for Mr Wong; Mr Moon and Roe Shopfitting.

important at the outset to recognise that Order 17, rule 11 introduced a new and, as the court had held in the past, draconian regime, with the obvious intention of attempting to eliminate the delays which had disfigured the conduct of litigation, particularly personal injury cases, in the past. Given that the regime was new and to some extent revolutionary there was limited value in earlier authorities arising in different contexts.

It was furthermore clear that the rules had to be construed so as to give effect to the intention of the rule-maker. Here the object was to induce greater urgency in the conduct of civil litigation.

It was important that the court should be slow to erect interlocutory hazards or obstacles which would increase the expense and unfair if an action were automatically struck out where a party had done precisely what the rule itself had provided; that, in particular reliance on *Ashworth v McKay Foods Ltd* ([1996] 1 WLR 542) and *Ferreira v American Embroidery Employees Association* ([1996] 1 WLR 536), the effect of decisions since *Roslin v British Steel plc* ([1994] 1 WLR 732) was that a request might be made at any time up to the 15-month period.

That did not mean that rule 11(3)(d) was without effect: it enabled a defendant to make an appropriate application for the fixing of a timetable with the consequent risk of a costs penalty to the plaintiff, or his advisers.

It also enabled the court to summon the parties and impose a procedural timetable on them which the Court of Appeal would expect increasingly to be done.

The court had plainly, in the earlier cases, assumed that a request for a hearing date, if made within the 15-month period did not import a retrospective application for an extension. The request for a hearing date had to be made to the proper officer.

Since the fixing of a hearing date after six months and before the 15-month deadline did not import a retrospective application for an extension, the request for a hearing date had to be made to the proper officer.

In the first action, the recorder had concluded that where no request had been made within the six-month period the plaintiff was not entitled to assert the responsibility of the district judge, the "proper officer" was to be interpreted by virtue of Order 1, rule 3 to mean the chief clerk or any other officer of the court acting on his behalf.

So defined, the proper officer would not be a suitable person to whom to address an application calling for the exercise of discretion. The inference was that if the plaintiff requested the proper officer to fix a hearing date after the expiry of the six-month period, but before the expiry of the 15-month period, the proper officer would fix the date.

That was an automatic step not involving the exercise of discretion. It might be open to a defendant to apply to set that order aside on the facts.

His Lordship said that it was

so defined that approach. It was clear that the sanction applied to failure.

The wording of the rule supported that approach. It was clear that the sanction applied to failure.

His Lordship referred to the defendants' further submission, made in particular reliance on *Mervin Assuranc Co Ltd* ([1985] 1 WLR 513, 520) that a failure to comply with paragraph (3)(d) was an irregularity which, while not nullifying the proceedings, had to be cured.

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Duty of employer to ensure safety of employees

Health and Safety Executive v Spindle Select Ltd
 Before Lord Justice Stautham and Mr Justice Tucker
 [Judgment November 28]

In the context of criminal proceedings, the duty of an employer to ensure the safety of his employees to ensure comprehensive and all formed part of one activity.

The general duty was laid down by section 20 of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The matters referred to in section 2(2) were no more than examples of that general duty to which there was no need to refer specifically in the information and which, in any event, were not exclusive.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved

judgement allowing an appeal by the Health and Safety Executive by way of case stated against the dismissal on April 15, 1994, by Oswestry Justices of an information preferred against Spindle Select Ltd under section 2 of the 1974 Act in respect of an accident to their employee, Mr Neil Peever.

The information stated that Spindle Select, being employers, failed to discharge the duty imposed after coming into contact with the rotating cutters of a wood turning machine. The justices dismissed that information on the company's application before any evidence was adduced.

The grounds of that application were that (i) the information failed to give reasonable information as to the nature of the charge and (ii) that if the prosecutor ought to give further particulars by alleging both a failure to guard the machine and a failure to train Mr Peever adequately, the information would then be duplicitous as alleging two separate offences.

The court was informed by Mr Grieve, counsel for the inspector, that was their practice, and also his experience, for such an information to charge an offence contrary to section 2(1) and not to prosecute under the less general provisions of section 2(2).

Mr Grieve submitted that section 2(1) provided the foundation for the offence and that section 2(2) merely provided examples of the ways in which the offence might be committed. It was his practice to provide advance information of the way in which the prosecution put their case and to provide witness statements.

Mr Grieve disagreed with the suggestion that if full particulars had been contained in the information it would have been bad for duplicity. He would not have referred in any of the paragraphs contained in section 2(2) but to a particular fault. That would not have been duplicitous since he would have been referring to one activity, one risk that gave rise to one accident and therefore to one offence.

Mr Cowan submitted that the justices were right to conclude that the information was defective.

In his Lordship's opinion the charge should be founded on section 2(1), as the section creating the offence, and provided sufficient particulars were given, that was the proper course to take.

It was not necessary to refer in terms even if applicable, to any of the paragraphs of section 2(2), or to the subsection itself. Even if the information itself, or the particulars which accompanied it, referred to more than one aspect of the overall duty, that would not make the information bad for duplicity.

Accordingly the appeal was allowed, the justices' decision quashed and the case remitted to the justices with a direction to continue the hearing.

Lord Justice Stautham agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Health and Safety Executive; Weightmans, Liverpool.

as provided by section 33(1A), as inserted by section 4 of the Offshore Safety Act 1992.

Mr Dominic Grieve for the prosecutors: Mr Peter Cowan for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE TUCKER said that the information was preferred after Mr Peever had his right hand severed after coming into contact with the rotating cutters of a wood turning machine. The justices dismissed that information on the company's application before any evidence was adduced.

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Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Mid cap sector	Company	Price	Mid	Yield	PE	Mid cap sector	Company	Price	Mid	Yield	PE	Mid cap sector	Company	Price	Mid	Yield	PE	Mid cap sector	Company	Price	Mid	Yield	PE	
		£	p	%				£	p	%				£	p	%			£	p	%			
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES																								
4,383.20	Alfred Bernhard	426.00	12%	7.0	127	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	181	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00
765.40	Altron	71.00	-	1.0	127	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	181	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00
42.10	Burn Stewart	71.00	-	1.0	127	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	181	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00
24.10	Carrington A	69.00	-	7.0	125	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	181	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00
8,432.20	Carrington B	52.00	-	4.0	125	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	181	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00
8,472.00	Carrington C	52.00	-	4.0	125	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	181	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00
12.30	Carrington D	52.00	-	4.0	125	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	181	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00
12.30	Carrington E	52.00	-	4.0	125	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	181	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00
11.14	Carrington F	52.00	-	4.0	125	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	181	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00
4,103.00	SA Breweries	386.00	-	2.0	122	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	181	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00
BANKS																								
11,493.00	ABN AMRO	374.00	-	1.1	144	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	181	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00
5,501.70	ABN AMRO	581.00	-	1.5	125	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	181	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00
5,071.00	ABN AMRO	581.00	-	1.5	125	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	181	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00
24,103.50	Bank America	582.00	-	1.5	125	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	181	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00
15,439.00	Bankers Trust	582.00	-	1.5	125	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	181	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00
1,727.00	Barclays	582.00	-	1.5	125	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	181	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00
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1,727.00	Barclays	582.00	-	1.5	125	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	181	29.12	21.32	17.00	17.00	12%	29.12	21.32	17.00	17				

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

0171-782 7344

PARLIAMENTARY NOTICES

IN PARLIAMENT SESSION 1996-97

LONDON LOCAL AUTHORITIES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made to Parliament in the present Session by Westminster City Council for leave to introduce a Bill hereinafter referred to as "the Bill" under the above name or short title for purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

- To strengthen London borough councils' powers in relation to the prevention, investigation and enforcement of offences in relation to the claiming of benefits and other offences of fraud and to allow councils to share information and to request information from other bodies;
- To make further provision in relation to the enforcement of parking controls;
- To make further provision for increased powers of enforcement by London borough councils in relation to the control of waste on land and in particular powers of enforcement over private streets and alleyways and other open land;
- To make provision for London borough councils to assist film makers in the filming of films by providing the locations of streets and open spaces, to enable councils to charge a fee related to film makers under the Act and for the use of any of their property and to require notice to be given of filming on certain land;
- To make provision amending various licensing enactments relating to music and entertainment, theatres, cinemas, night clubs, new bar premises, special treatment premises, sex establishments and door supervisors, to provide that licensing conditions imposed by the Licensing Authority may not exceed the maximum conditions of fire certificates and regulations and to allow London borough councils to charge fees for their costs of enforcing conditions of consent for distribution of free literature;
- To make provision for the licensing of busking;
- To make provision for the establishment of business improvement districts and the making of charges for improvements where a requisite majority of businesses vote in favour of a business improvement district being established;
- To amend the London Regional Transport Act 1984 to enable the existing bus franchise scheme to continue in circumstances where the reserve first time scheme would have come into operation and to remove any obligation on London borough councils to replace concession permits, to make provision for the control of nuisance caused by blind, to enable London boroughs to replace the police authority in the control of street pedestrian crossings, to make provision that London boroughs are not obliged under an obligation to take over maintaining areas of street pavements unless certain conditions are complied with beforehand, to make provision relating to the offence of assault against a park keeper, to alter the application of legislation dealing with dangerous and neglected structures, to make provision for service of notices under the Highway Act, to make provision for the control of highway, to alter the application of section 31 of the London County Council (General Powers) Act 1921 to providers that the London Fire and Civil Defence Authority be entitled to compensation for loss of office and to amend the London Local Authorities Act 1996 to allow enforcement of bus lane provisions to be carried out only against the owner of a vehicle.

On and after the 4th of December 1996, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies thereof obtained at the office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Commons, or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons. The latest date for deposit of such a Petition in the House of Commons will be 5th February 1997 if the Bill originates in the First House or the 30th January 1997 if it originates in the House of Lords.

Further information regarding the deposit of such a Petition may be obtained from either the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons or the undesignated Parliamentary Agents and all the offices listed in the Schedule hereto.

Dated this 2nd day of December 1996

SARAH PRUTCHARD,
QUEEN ANNE CHAMBERS,
3 Dean Farrar Street,
Westminster,
London SW1H 9PL
Parliamentary Agents

SCHEDULE

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, Civic Centre, Dagenham, Essex, RM10 7BN
London Borough of Bexley, Bexley Civic Offices, Broadway, Bexleyheath, Kent, DA5 7LB
London Borough of Brent, Brant Town Hall, Forty Lane, Wembley, Middlesex, HA9 9RZ
London Borough of Bromley, Civic Centre, Stockwell Close, Bromley, Kent, BR1 3JH
London Borough of Croydon, Town Hall, East Road, London WC1H 9LP
London Borough of Crayford, One Stop Reception, Taberner House, Park Lane, Croydon, CR0 1PA
London Borough of Ealing, Information Office, Perceval House, 14-16 Underhill Road, London, W5 2HL
London Borough of Enfield, PO Box 61, Civic Centre, Silver Street, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 3JT
London Borough of Greenwich, Town Hall, Wellington Street, London, SE1 8PP
London Borough of Hackney, Town Hall, Mare Street, London, E8 1EA
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham, Room 137, Town Hall, King Street, London W6 9UJ
London Borough of Haringey, Civic Centre, High Road, London, N2 4LE
London Borough of Harrow, PO Box 2, Civic Centre, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 2JH
London Borough of Havering, Havering Town Hall, Romford, Essex, RM1 3BD
London Borough of Hillingdon, Planning Reception, Civic Centre, Uxbridge, Middlesex, UB1 1WU
London Borough of Hounslow, Committee Services Manager, Civic Centre, London, TW3 1QH
London Borough of Merton, Town Hall, Merton, TW3 1UD
The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Town Hall, Hornton Street, London, W8 7NA
The Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Guldhall, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, KT1 1EU
London Borough of Lambeth, Town Hall, Brixton Hill, London, SW2 1RL
London Borough of Lewisham, Launceston House, 1 Caledon Road, London, SE6 4RU
Corporation of London, PO Box 22, Guildhall, London EC2P 2EJ
London Borough of Merton, Reference Library, Merton Civic Centre, London Road, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5DZ
London Borough of Newham, Town Hall, Queen's Road, Ilford, Essex, IG1 1DD
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames, Civic Centre, 44 York Street, Twickenham, Middlesex, TW1 3BZ
London Borough of Southwark, Town Hall, Peckham Road, London, SE1 1UL
London Borough of Sutton, Corporate Legal Group, Civic Offices, St Nicholas Way, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 1EA
London Borough of Tower Hamlets, Mulberry Place, 5 Clove Crescent, London E14 2BG
London Borough of Waltham Forest, Information Desk, Town Hall, Forest Gate, Walthamstow, London E17 4F
London Borough of Wandsworth, The Concourse, Town Hall, Wandsworth High Street, London, SW18 2PU

IN PARLIAMENT SESSION 1996-97

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made to Parliament in the present Session by Westminster City Council for leave to introduce a Bill hereinafter referred to as "the Bill" under the above name or short title for purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

To provide for street trading controls within the City of Westminster, to regulate the street trading permitted within the city, the street trading permitted under the London Local Authorities Act 1990; to make provision as regards designation of licence streets and the specification of articles which may be offered for sale in such streets, the granting and renewal of street trading licences including terms and conditions, the revocation or variation of such licences, the changing of a street or recovery of charges in connection with street trading, renewals, variations, cancellations, temporary licences, nominations of a relative etc. to where a holder of a street trading licence wishes a licence to be granted in certain circumstances, the giving of notices, proof of resolutions passed and exercise of powers under the Bill, and as to offences relating to street trading and unlicensed street trading.

On and after the 4th December 1996, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies thereof obtained at the office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Commons or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons. The latest date for deposit of such a Petition in the First House will be 6th February 1997 if the Bill originates in the House of Lords, or the 30th January 1997 if it originates in the House of Commons.

Further information regarding the deposit of such a Petition may be obtained from either the Office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords or the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons or the undesignated Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 2nd day of December 1996.

C T WILSON,
Westminster City Hall,
Victoria Street,
Westminster,
London SW1E 6QP
City Solicitor

SARAH PRUTCHARD,
Queen Anne Chambers,
3 Dean Farrar Street,
Westminster,
London SW1H 9PL
Parliamentary Agents

IN PARLIAMENT SESSION 1996-97

HALESHAM CATTLE MARKET

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that application has been made to Parliament by the Halesham Cattle Market Company (hereinafter referred to as "the Company") and Carter Construction Developments Limited for leave to introduce a Bill under the above name or short title for the purposes of which the following is a concise summary:

- To relieve the Company of its duty to provide and maintain a market;
- To amend provisions of the Halesham Cattle Market Act 1871 to enable the Company to dispose of the whole or any part of its land or property;
- To repeal provisions of the Halesham Cattle Market Act 1871.

On or after the 4th of December 1996, a copy of the Bill may be inspected and copies obtained at a price of £1 each at the offices of Messrs. Cooper Carter Claremont at 1 North Street, Halesham, East Sussex BN21 6DA, at the offices of Carter Construction Developments Limited, High Street, Billericay, Essex, CM2 8XY and at the offices of the undesignated Parliamentary Agents.

Objection to the Bill may be made by depositing a Petition against it. If the Bill originates in the House of Commons, the latest date for depositing such a Petition in the Private Bill Office of that House will be 30th January 1997; if it originates in the House of Lords, the latest date for depositing such a Petition in the Office of the Clerks of the Parliament will be 5th February 1997. Full details of the procedure may be obtained from the Private Bill Office of the House of Commons, the office of the Clerk of the Parliaments, House of Lords or the undesignated Parliamentary Agents.

Dated this 2nd day of December 1996

DYSON BELL MARTIN

1, Dean Farrar Street,

London SW1H 0DV

Parliamentary Agents

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 004545 of 1996

IN THE HIGH COURT

ON JUSTICE

CHANCERY DIVISION

COMPANIES COURT

IN THE MATTER OF

WALSHERS TRUST BANK

Holdings Limited

IN THE MATTER OF

THE COMPANIES ACT 1996

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the

Petition of

John Edward

Walshers

Holdings

Limited

for the above-named

Company

and in the case of

John Edward

Walshers

Holdings

Limited

and without

prejudice

to the above-named

Company

and in the case of

John Edward

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to the above-named

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John Edward

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THE TIMES MONDAY DECEMBER 9 1996

BUSINESS NEWS 43

Airtours heading into more profitable waters

AIRTOURS: The second-largest tour operator is expected to unveil a £21 million increase in pre-tax profits when it reports on Wednesday. The industry is still in shock after Airtours and Thomson, the UK's leading tour operators, were referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission by the Office of Fair Trading last month for alleged anti-competitive behaviour. However, Merrill Lynch is forecasting full-year pre-tax profits of £80 million for Airtours, compared with £59 million last year. Wayne Sanderson, its leisure analyst, said the prospects for Airtours are good because consumer spending is forecast to rise by 1.4 per cent, to 4 per cent.

The Airtours share price has suffered as badly as that of its rival First Choice. The City is comforted by the 29.6 per cent stake held by Carnival Cruise Corporation, the US company, which is widely expected to bid for Airtours in the medium term. David Crossland, chairman of Airtours, has a seat on Carnival's board. He held the helm steady through 1995, the worst trading year for the travel industry for a decade. His experiment with cruising was an instant success, and Sunwing and Carousel were operating at capacity for most of the season.

COMPANIES

LONDON ELECTRICITY: A decline in profitability is not normally associated with the regional electricity companies but shareholders should brace themselves when the company unveils half-year figures on Thursday. Brokers like NatWest Securities anticipate a drop in the pre-tax number, from £84.5 million to £70.3 million, with earnings per share also down from 32.8p to 31.5p.

SCOTTISH HYDRO:

Thursday's interim figures cover what is traditionally the quietest period of the year and are unlikely to set pulses racing. Pre-tax profits are expected to be up about £5.5 million, at £67 million, with earnings 11 per cent higher at 13.1p. But the real focus of attention will be on

future plans. The group has already made it clear that any cash surpluses will be used for strengthening the business, so there are unlikely to be any special cash handbacks. Even so, a 14 per cent increase is expected in the half-year payout, with brokers looking for around 13p a share.

MFI:

YORKSHIRE ELECTRICITY: The focus of attention, when the group reports tomorrow, will be on shareholder value rather than its underlying performance. Pre-tax profits are expected to fall from £10.6 million to £8.1 million. Earnings a share will be down 6 per cent, at 42.4p. A share buyback may be the most likely outcome. It would enhance earnings and put the dividend back to a sensible level. Meanwhile, shareholders can expect a healthy 34 per cent dividend increase to 13.3p.

MF: The upturn in the housing market and pick-up in

consumer spending should be reflected in half-year figures today, with brokers looking for a surge at the pre-tax level, from £21.6 million to £41.2 million. In September the group confirmed strong growth with sales during the first 21 weeks of the year up by 17 per cent. The strong pound will have benefited the group when translating against the mark, and raw material costs are also expected to have moved in the company's favour after two years of adverse performance. Earnings a share are likely to have almost doubled, at 4.6p, while shareholders should be rewarded with a 17 per cent increase in the interim payout, to 8.75p.

COMPASS:

The strong surge in pre-tax profits is envisaged when full-year figures are reported tomorrow, but growth in earnings is likely to be much slower. NatWest Securities is forecasting a rise in pre-tax profits, from £7.2 million to £11.8 million, up by almost 60 per cent. But earnings are likely to grow by a more pedestrian 18 per cent, to 26.6p. The strength of sterling will be good for the group, which generates 75 per cent of profits overseas. But the business is no longer cash generative at the net level, leaving it increasingly

vulnerable to rising interest rates. Shareholders should be rewarded with a 15 per cent increase in the payout, to 8.75p.

CHUBB:

The maker of safes,



WITNESS
David Crossland, Airtours chairman, kept the helm steady in a difficult year

MICHAEL CLARK

Clarke's diary holds key to the week

BY JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A peek at Kenneth Clarke's diary furnishes many of the key events that will attract the financial markets' attention this week. Today the Chancellor is questioned by the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee on the Budget. After the Governor of the Bank of England last week gave an apparently relaxed view of the need to raise base rates, the markets will be eager to see what light on this question will be shed by Mr Clarke. William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, testifies tomorrow.

On Wednesday the focus in the morning will be the monetary meeting to see whether base rates are raised. Later Mr Clarke opens a two-day debate in Parliament on Europe. On Thursday the Chancellor goes to Dublin for a crucial meeting of European finance ministers, followed on Friday and Saturday by the European Council meeting, dubbed the Dublin Summit. On Thursday the regular

meeting of the Bank of France's council may gain attention given recent talk about the franc-mark exchange rate.

Among key British statistical releases this week are November producer prices today which are expected to show further easing in the rates of input and output price inflation. Output price inflation is expected to slide to 2.1 per cent from 2.3 per cent in October while input prices are predicted, according to the market consensus from MMS International, to be 2.1 per cent down year on year compared with 2 per cent previously.

On Thursday November retail price figures are expected to show key measures of inflation unchanged from October. Headline inflation is predicted to stay at 2.7 per cent, underlying inflation at 3.3 per cent and RPIY — excluding mortgage interest payments and indirect taxes — at 3 per cent. December's CBI industrial trends survey is also published.



Clarke: European debate



George: relaxed view

RESUME

TODAY

Interims: Carcio Engineering, Drummond Group, Ideal Hardware, Jarvis (Q3), London Brick, Marberry Group, P&G, East Leisure, Trafalgar AP Group, Dwyer Estates, Electronic Data Processing, Fifth Floor, Reed Executive, Slimme, Unidare, Economic statistics: UK November producer prices.

THURSDAY

Interims: Alba, Anglian Group, Berkeley Group, British Land, BSS Group, Capital for Companies VCT, Chubb Security, Drummond Group, Hulme, Hill Hire, Prudential International, John Tamm Group, Theo Fennel, Total Systems, Triton Group, Vtech Holdings, Finlays, Aldersgate Group, Compass Group, Holmes & Marchant, Hozelock Group, Leeds Group, Sage Group, Waterfall Holdings, Whessoe, Economic statistics: UK October new construction orders, UK BRC November retail sales survey, US Q3 current account balance, National Association of Purchasing Managers semi-annual economic forecast.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: WS Atkins, Bristol Water Holdings, David S Smith, First Technology, Greene King, Finlays, Airtours, Appollo Metals, Avon Rubber.

SUNDAY

Independent on Sunday: Buy Hay & Robertson, Williams, Wainhomes, Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur, Marston. The Sunday Times: Buy BAE, Williams, Tarmac, Hill Hire. The Sunday Tele-



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no half measures.



Moving markets: Patrick Queen, operations manager, left, and Charles Parsons, finance director of Britannic, the timber company, which is to join the AIM from the Ofex market on Wednesday, with a price-tag of £11.8 million.

Labour training scheme to be spelt out in detail

By PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

DETAILS of Labour's planned University for Industry (UfI) will be set out tomorrow. The party wants a business-based approach to lifetime learning and universal opportunities for continuing training.

The scheme has been worked out in close consultation with Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, who first proposed it. The party wants to show that a UfI would be more than a vague concept with little practical application.

Labour leaders see the UfI as a parallel move to the establishment in the 1960s of the Open University — an initiative that captured the public imagination and commanded considerable support.

While the party has not yet put detailed flesh on the bones of the UfI idea, the Institute for Public Policy Research — a think-tank close to Tony Blair, the Labour leader — will tomorrow set out lifetime learning proposals that will use the UfI to improve the skill base of the British economy.

Mr Brown will address an

IPPR conference on the UfI. Beforehand, the institute's own report on the idea will suggest that a UfI should not be a new institution that competes with other training and education providers. It wants a "national catalyst" to bring together a range of information currently dispersed across different companies and educational bodies, with the aim of reaching mass audiences at a low cost.

The institute's report will say the UfI would incur some start-up costs. It will suggest that these could be met by reallocating some existing public training expenditure or from the Government's Private Finance Initiative.

The IPPR will quote CBI estimates that annual training spending amounts to £4 billion by employers and individuals. It will also suggest that the cost of courses could be met by employers and individuals, or through measures such as Labour's proposed individual learning accounts.

AIM keeps its nerve

By FRASER NELSON

THE Alternative Investment Market kept its head on Friday, while all around it were losing theirs. As the FTSE 100 suffered its biggest loss since Britain's ERM exit, the FT-SE AIM index held firm at 1,034.50.

Its performance further weakened the old taunt that when Wall Street sneezes and London catches cold, AIM

will completely collapse. Its prospects were lifted last week as post-budget sums showed the shares of 30 AIM stocks qualify for tax relief. Ask Central, Pan Andean Resources and Scrutons are among those expected to be given clearance by the Inland Revenue under the new rules.

However, some of AIM's penny shares suffered, with

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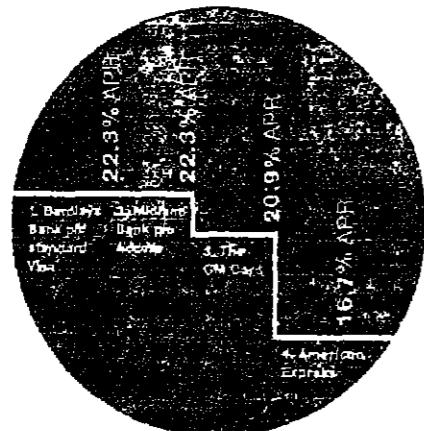
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1996 High	Low	Mid cap (million)	Price per share	Wkly +/-	% Chg	Y/M +/-	P/E	1996 High	Low	Mid cap (million)	Price per share	Wkly +/-	% Chg	Y/M +/-	P/E
150%	132	13.90	AFA Systems	129%	+ 2%	4.1	11.3	92	2	5.07	Just Group	3	-	4	
152%	168	21.60	AMCO Corp	161%	+ 2%	4.1	11.3	121	2	5.25	Jed Group Ws	12%	+ 1%	12	
118%	57	22.50	AMV Int'l	105%	-	2.4	24.1	50	52	58.93	K3 Electronics	50%	-	18.1	
107%	14	4.65	Amwest Reserves	141%	+ 1%	1.4	14.1	128	127	4.20	La Salle	120%	- 2	13.7	
107%	105	14.10	Access Plus	100%	- 2%	4.3	12.3	52	127	1.70	Lancashire Ep	150	-	2.1	
161	76	14.00	Active Imaging	76%	- 1%	3.8	15.4	323	210	1.80	Lawrence	322%	+ 100%	12.1	
210	123	30.20	Ade Gushy	205%	-	3.8	22.8	5750	2550	50.93	Lichfield Shs	305	+ 3%	6.8	9.3
25%	74	11.10	African Gold	105%	- 1%	1.1	12.8	17	17	0.24	Life Sciences	16	-	12.8	
55%	55	36.70	Albionvale & So	80%	+ 1%	1.1	15.4	79%	17	0.24	Lakeside Ws	74	- 4%	2.7	8.9
53	32	5.27	Algoma	30%	-	5.4	15.4	78	85	2.10	Lafayette Ws	65	-	2.7	
24	4	3.68	Alpha Ondorus	5%	- 1%	5.4	10.6	15	15	3.58	Lanark Asia Plc	11%	-	2.7	
455	362	8.07	Ann St Brewery	470%	+ 9%	5.2	10.6	102	85	0.86	London Town	70	-	2.7	
1025	855	8.07	Ant St Cr Pt	102%	-	8.1	12.3	50	55	1.75	Longton	327%	+ 6%	13	26.2
5	4	5.07	Anter	75%	- 3%	5.4	12.4	114	114	0.82	Longton	34	-	4.1	
1.65	1.65	1.65	Arco Proje	30%	-	1.4	12.4	117	117	1.71	Lottery Ws	1	-	12.4	
26.00	21.00	26.00	Asturias	30%	-	1.7	12.4	160	217	12.10	Magnus Power	20%	-	12.9	
125%	125	21.00	Ast Control	125%	- 7%	1.7	12.4	167%	171	1.16	Majestic Ws	22%	-	12.3	
1.16	1.16	1.16	Athelney Tens	95%	-	1.7	12.4	171	171	7.07	Malvern & More S	55	-	1.5	
145%	125	12.00	Autumnal Comms	105%	-	1.7	12.4	125	127	4.05	Mario Hilborn	110	-	2.2	56.1
57	57	11.50	Baldwin	105%	-	1.7	12.4	114	114	5.80	Megamicro	160	-	2.2	
7	7	7.07	Beechcroft	4%	-	1.2	12.4	117	117	1.71	Medicorp Ws	48	-	12.4	
4.4	4	7.07	Bentall	4%	-	1.2	12.4	104	104	1.71	Memory Corp	51%	-	12.4	
4.4	4	7.07	Bentall	4%	-	1.2	12.4	104	104	1.71	Motor Tech	18%	-	12.4	
1.65	1.65	1.65	Bentley	30%	-	1.7	12.4	104	104	1.71	Motor Tech Ws	20%	-	12.4	
1.65	1.65	1.65	Bentley	30%	-	1.7	12.4	104	104	1.71	Motorsport	24%	-	12.4	
1.65	1.65	1.65	Bentley	30%	-	1.7	12.4	104	104	1.71	Monogram	15%	-	12.4	
1.65	1.65	1.65	Bentley	30%	-	1.7	12.4	104	104	1.71	Moscow	20%	+ 1%	1.5	24.0
1.65	1.65	1.65	Bentley	30%	-	1.7	12.4	104	104	1.71	Moscow	90	-	1.2	18.8
1.65	1.65	1.65	Bentley	30%	-	1.7	12.4	104	104	1.71	Moscow	170%	-	1.2	7.4
1.65	1.65	1.65	Bentley	30%	-	1.7	12.4	104	104	1.71	Moscow	320%	-	1.2	
1.65	1.65	1.65	Bentley	30%	-	1.7	12.4	104	104	1.71	Moscow	340%	-	1.2	
1.65	1.65	1.65	Bentley	30%	-	1.7	12.4	104	104	1.71	Moscow	360%	-	1.2	
1.65	1.65	1.65	Bentley	30%	-	1.7	12.4	104	104	1.71	Moscow	380%	-	1.2	
1.65	1.65	1.65	Bentley	30%	-	1.7	12.4	104	104	1.71	Moscow	400%	-	1.2	
1.65	1.65	1.65	Bentley	30%	-	1.7	12.4	104	104	1.71	Moscow	420%	-	1.2	
1.65	1.65	1.65	Bentley	30%	-	1.7	12.4	104	104	1.71	Moscow	440%	-	1.2	
1.65	1.65	1.65	Bentley	30%	-	1.7	12.4	104	104	1.71	Moscow	460%	-	1.2	
1.65	1.65	1.65	Bentley	30%	-	1.7	12.4	104	104	1.71	Moscow	480%	-	1.2	
1.65	1.65	1.65	Bentley	30%	-	1.7	12.4	104	104	1.71	Moscow	500%	-	1.2	
1.65	1.65	1.65	Bentley	30%	-	1.7	12.4	104	104	1.71	Moscow	520%	-	1.2	
1.65	1.65	1.65	Bentley	30%	-	1.7	12.4	104	104	1.71	Moscow	540%	-	1.2	
1.65	1.65	1.65	Bentley	30%	-	1.7	12.4	104	104	1.71	Moscow	560%	-	1.2	
1.65															

Liverpool millennium project under fire from Walton Group

By JASON NISSE

PROPERTY developer is urging The Millennium Commission to reject an £80 million media and telecommunications project in the centre of Liverpool, claiming it will block another scheme that would create 6,000 jobs in the area.

Walton Group is proposing a rival £150 million development, building an 80,000 sq ft shopping and media

centre on the site in Chavasse Park, next to the Albert Dock, in central Liverpool. Walton's solicitors, Bermans, wrote to Jennifer Page, chief executive of the commission, saying that a decision to grant the request for £24.6 million of Lottery funding for the Discovery Centre would kill off the Walton project.

The commission will decide on Wednesday whether to back the Dis-

covey Centre, which is also set to receive about £15 million from Liverpool City Council and the Merseyside Development Corporation, as well as £40 million of private-sector finance.

The project has been put together by the Anglican Dean of Liverpool and will include a media factory, a technology museum, a public park and some shops. Liverpool City Council, which owns the site, would be willing to sell it

to the Discovery project for just £3 million, a fifth of the price Walton had said it would pay.

Walton says that Liverpool City Council had previously agreed to its offer of £15 million plus £1 million expenses for the site on which Walton is proposing to build an upmarket shopping centre along with media, education and leisure facilities.

In the letter to the commission, sent

at the end of last month, Bermans says: "It is expected that the scheme will create more than 6,000 new jobs in the area, which has been confirmed by independent experts."

The move by Walton has angered Liverpool City Council. "The council has taken a clear policy decision," said Alasdair Macdonald, deputy director of development at the council. "Walton is destructively getting at the Millenni-

um project." Mr Macdonald said it was not certain that Walton's development would be given the go-ahead even if the commission rejected funding for the Discovery Centre.

The Millennium Commission said that a decision is due to be made at a board meeting on Wednesday. "We take account of all local views before deciding on whether to back a project," said a spokeswoman.

Budget has failed to convince managers

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN'S managers expect interest rates to rise again before the general election and are sceptical about the value of the Budget to the UK economy, new evidence shows today.

The findings of the latest opinion survey of Britain's managers are almost uniformly dismissive about the recent Budget from Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, with most not only doubtful that they will be better off as a result, but suggesting that the Budget's tax cuts will push up inflation.

The study by the Institute of Management is the first significant test of business opinion since the Budget. A sample of more than 300 of the institute's members was questioned in-

mediately after last month's Budget, with 72 per cent saying they expect interest rates to rise again before the election. Three fifths do not believe that the Chancellor's tax cuts were justified, and more than half said that the reductions make an increase in inflation more likely.

Three fifths of those sampled are doubtful that the Budget will increase business investment, with 53 per cent suggesting that the Budget focused on short-term political issues rather than the economy in the long term.

Managers do not believe in the Government's forecasts about the economy, as laid out in the Budget, and do not believe they will personally benefit from its measures.

Meanwhile, 69 per cent do not believe that the Government will achieve its target of a 7 per cent cut in spending, and more than half doubt that the Government will hit its 2.5 per cent inflation target next year. Two fifths are sceptical about all in the Budget. A quarter believe they will be worse off.

Roger Young, the Institute of Management's director-general, says: "Managers do not share the Chancellor's breezy confidence about the UK economy. A shiver runs up their spines as they face the chilling prospect of rising interest rates and inflation. They believe the risks taken could blow away any rewards generated by the Budget."

On small business, the Chancellor's proposals to ease the impact on small firms of the uniform business rate are the only measures to find favour. Three quarters of managers in small firms do not believe the increase in VAT thresholds will benefit their businesses.

3% rises

Most wage deals in the engineering industry in the quarter to October were for 3 per cent or less, according to a survey of 142 firms by the Engineering Employers' Federation. October was the first month for nearly three years in which no pay freezes were reported.

TR deadline

Investors in the TR Technology split capital investment trust have until 3pm tomorrow to roll over into the new Henderson Technology Trust. Holders of 54.3 per cent of TR ordinary shares have agreed to swap.

WTO summit

World Trade Organisation ministers begin their inaugural five-day meeting in Singapore today, with customs modernisation and cross-border investment top of the agenda, according to business leaders.



New toys: John Swinewood, broadcast services manager at British Telecom, which is paying £6 million for a further 15 transportable earth stations. The mobile satellite stations are used to boost television signals to studios

Pearson buys stake in South African papers

By ERIC REGULY

PEARSON, owner of the *Financial Times*, is to announce today that it has entered the South African newspaper market with purchases worth about £11.5 million.

It is buying 50 per cent of *Business Day* and an equal share of the *Financial Mail*, a weekly, from Times Media, a South African publishing and TV group. The former has a circulation of 40,200; the latter 31,100. Pearson said the *Financial Times* will help the two titles to expand in their home markets and develop their international coverage.

Pearson is forming a company called African Business Media to hold its interest in the newspapers. A TV company called the African Business Channel, which produces a nightly business news programme, will become part of the company. It is currently owned by a partnership between Times Media and the *Financial Times*'s TV division.



Scardino: expected to sell

Pearson said the acquisition will be completed by the end of the month and will enhance earnings from the outset.

The purchase is apparently part of Pearson's new strategy of concentrating on publishing and entertainment in international markets. The company, whose businesses include Madame Tussaud's, the wax mu-

seum, Mindscape, the ailing electronic games maker, and half the Lazard's investment bank, has been criticised for fighting on too many fronts.

Some of these "misfits", as HSEC James Capel, the broker, has called them, are expected to be sold after Marjorie Scardino, chief executive of the *Economist*, becomes chief executive of Pearson in January, taking over from Frank Barlow, group managing director.

Pearson is fond of financial newspapers because of their niche protection — they tend to have few competitors — and because they are able to spawn specialist online and interactive services. Its financial newspaper portfolio includes *Le Echos* in France, *Expansion* in Spain, *Financial Times Investors* in Russia and 20 per cent of *The Financial Post* in Canada.

A fortnight ago Pearson paid \$336 million for Putnam Berkley, the US publisher.

Victory for German metal union

By OLIVER AUGUST

GERMAN employers yesterday caved in to the demands of strike-happy metal workers over a 20 per cent sick pay cut.

Provisions for the cut, made in a new law, will not be implemented although the loss-making metal industry is losing 100,000 jobs every year. Employers had taken a hard line in failed national and regional pay talks to enforce the cuts. However, the powerful IG Metal union replied with strikes, drawing tens of thousands, to keep sick pay in line with full wages.

Werner Stumpf, the employers' negotiator, said that the deal failed to meet the goal of cutting costs but no other outcome had been possible. IG Metal said that all-out strikes were possible next year if deals are not made nationwide protecting full sick pay.

Under former law, overtime work counted towards sick pay, and sick workers could receive more than those working normal hours.

The year 1996 has generally been the year of the convergence trade. Italian and Spanish bonds, to name but two, have outperformed bonds. The gilt market has been a notable exception. In the past year, the spread between gilts and bonds has widened substantially. One reason may have been reassessment of which countries are likely to take part in the first round of EMU. In addition, macroeconomic developments in the UK have not been favourable. Growth has risen and inflation has been disappointing. The annual rise in RPIX is likely to be 3.25 per cent in the fourth quarter, half a percentage point above the market expectation at the start of the year. Also, the 1996-97 PSBR has not fallen as much as projected in last year's Budget.

Sterling, in contrast to gilts' underperformance, has increased in strength — the recent peak of the pound's effective index was 14 per cent above the level at the beginning of the year. This has happened at a time when interest rate expectations have been revised up and the current account has unexpectedly improved. In addition, the dollar strength has provided a favourable background for sterling.

It has not been all bad news for gilts. The combination of currency strength and higher yields has tempted foreign investors into the gilt market. Recent Bank of England data shows that the overseas purchase of gilts in October was the largest since records began. This is an acceleration of the general trend; the overseas sector has been a net buyer of gilts in every month of 1996, except one.

This trend could easily be sped up in coming months by Japanese capital flows. The background is that Japanese institutions have guaranteed higher returns to investors than are currently offered by Japanese government bond (JGB) yields. This will encourage capital to flow out of Japan in search of higher yield, especially at a time when the JGB market is looking increasingly vulnerable.

In addition, the weakness of the yen in recent months up, so whoever wins the election will need to tighten monetary policy. Expectations of higher rates at the end of 1997 are likely to keep sterling strong next year.

Foreign buying is unlikely to be sufficient to trigger a major rally in gilts immediately. The very combination of strong growth and stubborn inflation that is making the market expect higher rates and keeping the currency strong will prevent substantial spread narrowing before the general election. Also, political uncertainty continues to dog the market.

However, overseas interest should prevent significant widening beyond the current level. Also, the very fact that gilts have not benefited from EMU-inspired convergence trades makes them less vulnerable to disappointment if expectations of monetary union unwind.

With spreads unlikely to widen further, the higher return offered by gilts is beginning to make them a valuable investment.

KATY PETERS AND SANJAY JOSHI
Daiwa Europe

Greenwood on the cards

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

STUART GREENWOOD, the former finance director of Spring Ram, is set to take a higher business profile after the acquisition by The Greeting Store Group, the company he now runs, of Strand Libraries, the greetings card retailer.

The privately owned

Strand, the fourth-largest greetings card retailer in the UK, went into administration in May, owing more than £7 million and with sufficient cash flow to continue trading during the summer — trade

to buy Strand's remaining 74 outlets.

The Greeting Store Group already has a chain of 36 stores. Under the deal, it will pay off all of Strand's creditors in full. The main creditor, apart from landlords, is Hallmark, the greetings card manufacturer.

Mr Greenwood left Spring Ram, the ailing bathroom equipment manufacturer, in 1993, the first of a string of directors to quit the company as it sank further into financial difficulties.

Bid report goes to Lang

By MARTIN WALLER

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission will today pass to the Department of Trade and Industry a report on yet another politically sensitive takeover battle in the utilities sector — the attempt by two French companies to wrest control of Mid Kent Holdings, the supplier of water to 530,000 customers in Kent.

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, will consider the commission's findings before giving a final ruling on whether a bid should be allowed next month. The two

latter's allegations that customers would suffer if a takeover is allowed.

Geoff Baldwin, chief executive of Mid Kent, claimed yesterday that hosepipe bans would be brought forward by a bid. The two French groups already own South East Water and Folkestone and Dover Water, two water supply companies which adjoin Mid Kent.

"South East Water has had hosepipe restrictions in force for more than a year," said Mr Baldwin. "There is no public benefit from a merger."

Institutions courted for £50m rights

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE MANAGEMENT OF Wickes, the scandal-hit DIY chain, is to hold a final round of meetings with institutional shareholders early this week in an effort to persuade them to support a £50 million rights issue, set to be launched on Thursday.

Some institutional investors are concerned that the company, whose former senior management is under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office, has increased the amount it wants to raise from £30 million.

One fund manager, who is due to meet Wickes' managers this week, said: "We are all still in the dark, and need to hear what Wickes have to say

suspended in June, to restart. It could also trigger a bidding war. The suspension came after accounting irregularities were uncovered at the company.

Wickes has since disclosed that there had been "deliberate misrepresentation" of rebate arrangements with suppliers. The SFO said last month that it had begun an inquiry into the activities of former senior managers.

The prospectus, which aims to raise £50 million, will be released on Thursday, will include a restatement of 1995 profits and interim results for this year. The information could spur a bid for Wickes. Companies thought to be possible suitors are RMC and Kingfisher, owner of B&Q.



A bidder may pounce before we take any decisions." The Wickes management began visits to institutional investors last week. The recapitalisation will allow trading in Wickes shares,

GOLD FIELDS OF AFRICA LIMITED

THE DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND

The company has declared a final dividend No. 167 of 110 cents per ordinary share in South African currency, payable to members registered in the books of the company at the close of business on 27 December 1996.

Dividends will be electronically transferred to members' bank or building society accounts on 5 February 1997 at, where this method of payment has not been mandated, dividend warrants will be posted to members on 4 February 1997.

Standard conditions relating to the payment of dividends are obtainable at the share transfer offices and the London Office of the company.

The register of members will be closed from 28 December 1996 to 3 January 1997, inclusive.

By order of the Board
GOLD FIELDS CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED
London Secretariat
S.J. Dunning, Secretary

London Office and Office of
United Kingdom Registrar
Greenwich House
Francis Street
London SW1P 1DH

6 December 1996

No. 006515 of 1996	
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE CHANCERY DIVISION COMPANIES COURT	
IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY NATWEST LIMITED	
and	
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985	
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 15th November, 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice, Strand, before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 18th day of December, 1996.	
ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.	
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same for the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.	
Dated the 9th day of December, 1996.	
LINCLETTERS & PAJNES (DTL) Barrington House 39-47 Great Queen Street London EC2V 7JA Solicitors for the above-named Company	

Seventeen sex scenes, give or take a couple

Quite where it was I first learned there were 17 sex scenes in TV's version of *Moll Flanders* I forget now. Given the avalanche of titillating publicity that preceded Andrew Davies's adaptation, it could have been anywhere. But wherever it was, I wish I had never smacked eyes on the miserable statistic.

No sooner has Jim Parker's deeply unimaginative theme music begun, than I am there — a pathetic figure struggling in vain to keep the score. After last night's third instalment I make it — with absolutely no confidence at all — 11 down, six to go.

This unimpressive lack of precision stems from my own uncertainty as to what constitutes a sex scene. The general principles I am familiar with (that's what comes of watching too much television) but some of the subtleties are still causing me problems.

For example, do interrupted second helpings count twice and, for that matter, do fully clothed couplings count at all? Answer no to both and our tally could be as low as nine and tonight's concluding episode should be a bust. Answer yes, however, and if clergymen fulminating lasciviously over the sins of the flesh also count, then we're already up to 13 and it's pretty much all over, bar the lesbian interpolation.

This sort of highly technical analysis has kept me busy, so busy in fact that it has taken all of three episodes for a different truth to dawn on my distracted brain: that *Moll Flanders* is, er... rather bad. I don't mean Alex Kingston is rather bad — she has been wonderful as Moll — and should collect a host of awards including Best Eyebrows (a close contest with Frances Barber as Princess Radziwill in *Rhodes*) and Best Topless Asides to Camera (unless

Christmas holds some real surprises, a certainty).

But nearly everybody else — from Diana Rigg down, as my colleague Lynne Truss pointed out last week — has fallen short of the expected mark. They have not been helped by a production that combines 17th-century authenticity on the wardrobe front (bonnets from hell for the women, bright wigs for the men) with a very 20th-century delivery of the words. "Leave it, Selina," snapped Daniel Craig, as he drawled his way through the part of Jenny Seagrove.

Far more culpable, however, is Davies's screenplay, which while being undeniably amusing, has chased cheap laughs at every opportunity (witness Moll's confession and the preposterous clergymen she met on the coach) and normally cheap, 20th-century laughs at that. The



Matthew Bond

result, at times, has been not so much a romp as a pantomime. So, having established that... it's back to keeping the score. Does anybody know if gratuitous lesions count double?

First, however, let us consider Malcolm Gluck, a man whose time has surely passed but who instead finds himself with his own television series, the serially onomatopoeic and seriously annoying

Gluck. Gluck, Gluck (BBC2, Friday). You might think that a man who founded a second career (his first was in advertising, I believe) on the word "plonk" might have had the decency to move on to a third career based on something a little more contemporary by now. But no, Gluck is still here, blithely ignoring the fact that — for all the right reasons — the bottom end of the wine market has become rather dull. A revolution in wine-making and the buying expertise of the supermarkets have raised the quality of wines to a standard that most people would describe as quite acceptable.

Quite acceptable, however, as Jilly Goolden will tell you, does not a wine programme make — of dear me, no. So we're off again, down the familiar path of tortuous links (for one Gluck sat in a bath just so he could describe the texture of a wine as flannel) and tortured descriptions. As a profes-

sional debunker (where others quaff, Gluck scoffs) Gluck ought to be above all that "oaky, tarry, hint of under-ripe melony" nonsense but alas — no.

An Australian white wine, he thought, would be "terrible with grilled fish" (now there's a revolutionary thought) or even — yes, yes — with "lightly spiced oriental fish dishes". As for the red, from Raimat, it was "great with chicken and mushrooms or..." wait for it... "simply sitting sipping on the front step". Cheers, Malcolm, here's to that third career.

In conclusion, let us consider the excuses producers come up with to make us watch more pictures of animals. Some are good, such as the stylish *Spirits of the Jaguar* (BBC2), which yesterday turned its attention to the Maya, or to be more specific, the animals that live in the Central American forests that surround

the ruins where the Maya used to live. The result was enjoyable if mildly exasperating, leaving me wanting to know more about the Maya and less about silly ant-eaters and blind cave-fish.

Compare and contrast this with *The Saga of Life* (Channel 4, Saturday) the second part of which was the sort of misassembled tosh that would have had your biology teacher apologising for 20 years ago. What Michael Grade was doing showing it at 8 o'clock on a Saturday night, only he knows.

The common link to a programme an endless hour long was microscopic animals that had been filmed by one Lennart Nilsson. "Lennart Nilsson has allowed us to gaze into an unseen world," enthused the sort of narration that could cause sniggering at the back. I scratched the "tropical rainforests" of my scalp, flexed the "fertile foothills" of my forearms, and reached for the remote control.

BBC1
6.00am BUSINESS BREAKFAST (37536)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (96308)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (103170)
9.30 STYLE CHALLENGE (494349)

10.30 CAN'T COOK, WON'T COOK With Ainsley Harriott (37354)

11.00 NEWS (T), regional news and weather (3462422) 11.05 The Really Useful Show (5483335) 11.45 Smile's People (5680616)

12.00 NEWS (T), regional news and weather (5123539)

12.05pm QUINCY (3409083) 12.50 The Weather Show (30872880)

1.00 NEWS (T) and weather (61906)

1.30 REGIONAL NEWS (27123426)

1.40 NEIGHBOURS (2817422) 2.00 Call My Bluff (5189) 2.30 Who'll Do the Pudding? (487) 3.00 Incognito (4805)

3.30 THE BUSY WORLD OF RICHARD SCARRY (1636460) 3.55 Bodge and Badger (2101034) 4.10 Ace Ventura: Pet Detective (1901644) 4.35 Record Breakers (T) (779757) 5.00 Newround (T) (5351118) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (8657625)

5.35 NEIGHBOURS (T) (481064)

6.00 (T) and weather (248)

6.30 REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES (228)

7.00 TELLY ADDICTS Noel Edmonds presents the second semi-final of the television quiz (T) (9715)

7.30 TOMORROW'S WORLD includes a look at what is claimed to be the world's safest car, which the manufacturers say is impossible to crash (T) (712)

8.00 EASTENDERS Phil and Grant learn some disturbing facts about George. Peggy has another hospital appointment (T) (5335)

8.30 CHEFI Comedy drama starring Lenny Henry. With his divorce looming, Gareth is prone to severe mood swings as he mingles with the diners (T) (7170)

9.00 NEWS (T) and weather (7090)

9.30 PANORAMA: THE PRICE IS WRONG John Ware investigates allegations that the prices of hi-fi, televisions and fridges are being kept artificially high (T) (723847)

10.10 BILLY CONNOLLY'S WORLD TOUR OF AUSTRALIA At the Scottish comedian's tour nears its end, Billy arrives in the Outback, where he visits an opal-mining town and sees underground homes equipped with bars and swimming pools (T) (97731)

10.50 COMMON AS MUCK Comedy series about a gang of dustmen (T) (750151)

WALES: The slate 11.20 Film 9.60 11.50 Common as Muck 12.45 Smile's People (T) (1.30 News)

11.50 FILM 96 WITH BARRY NORMAN Reviews of 101 Dalmatians with Glenn Close as Cruella Deville, Star Trek — First Contact and I Shot Andy Warhol, which charts Valerie Solanas' attempt to kill the 1960s artist and film-maker. Plus, Sylvester Stallone talks about his latest action movie, Daylight (T) (738805)

12.20pm SMILLIE'S PEOPLE (245297)

1.05 WEATHER (968781)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode+ numbers, which allow you to programme your recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ card. To find the VideoPlus+ code for the programmes you wish to record, Videoplus+ (T) PlusCode+ and Video Programmer are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

BBC2
6.00am OPEN UNIVERSITY: Lifetimes, Work and the Family (3220595) 6.30 A New Role for Men (6151571) 7.15 Six Years (T) (210703) 7.30 Baby Bites (5008242) 7.50 Blue Peter (5018532) & 15 Charlie Chalk (5540680) 8.30 Lassies (49480) 9.00 The Worried Web (1090460) 9.15 Turner and Switzerland (5551557) 10.00 Playdays (2513489) 10.25 The Champions (3340064) 11.15 The Phil Silvers Show (2525025) 11.40 Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars (335539) 12.00 Ken Horn's Hot Wok (26248) 12.30 Working Lunch (67847) 1.00 Charlie Chalk (9853265)

1.15 FILM: Thin Finger Left Hand (1940, b/w) Comedy starring Myrna Loy and Melvyn Douglas. Directed by Robert Z. Leonard (60011170)

2.50 A WEEK TO REMEMBER (3160644)

3.00 News (7209422) 3.05 The Natural World (2543460) 3.50 Sports (601928)

4.00 Today's the Day (441) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Go! (253) 5.00 Esther (7793) 5.30 Going, Going, Gone (977)

6.00 SPACE PRECINCT (T) (489441)

6.45 AS SEEN ON TV (459285)

7.00 [REDACTED] 1914-18: Mutiny By 1917 the strain of war was beginning to show on both the battle and home fronts (b/w) (516503)

7.50 HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMAN WRONGS The tasks undertaken by children, who are currently fighting in conflicts in thirty-two countries around the world (562521)

8.00 HORIZON: Molecules with Sunglasses Charting the work of a British chemist and his colleagues who won the Nobel Prize for their research which resulted in a third form of carbon being identified (T) (71515)

8.50 GARDENERS' WORLD TAKE TWO Highlights from recent programmes (T) (879371)

9.00 [REDACTED]

9.30 WICKED WOMEN: KING GIRL (BBC2, 9.00pm)

Philomena McDonagh's bleak drama about a school bully was inspired by the Jamie Bulger case. McDonagh does not believe that the boys who killed Jamie were evil. The same applies to the fictional Glenn, a teenager played with horrifying conviction by a 16-year-old newcomer, Louise Atkins. Glenn's target is a classmate, Gail (another fine debut performance, by Cathy Purcell), who is not only naturally timid but is distraught over the recent death of her father. Glenn and her gang exploit Gail's grief to tease and humiliate her and then move on to physical assault. So what is Glenn's excuse? Plenty, according to McDonagh: a fatherless mother on the game, a wretched, intolerable home life. So Glenn is a victim, not a monster, and we should not rush to condemn. It still seems tough on the bereaved and blameless Gail.

Wicked Women: King Girl

9.30 NEWS (T) and weather (930915)

6.00 HOME AND AWAY (T) (487809)

6.25 HTV NEWS (T) (538422)

7.00 THE LIST (4083)

7.30 CORONATION STREET Tricia is called to see Mike at the factory (T) (880)

7.45 REGIONAL NEWS (T) (721503)

8.00 10.15pm BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT (7472625)

8.30 NEWS (T) (9617612)

8.30 REGIONAL NEWS (T) (721503)

9.00 10.30pm BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT (4083)

9.30 NEWS (T) and weather (930915)

10.00pm HTV NEWS (T) (538422)

10.30pm THE LIST (4083)

10.45pm BRUCE'S PRICE IS RIGHT (4083)

11.00pm REGIONAL NEWS (T) (763335)

10.40pm FILM: And the Will Tell (1991)

With Richard Crenna and Rachel Ward. Based on a true story, a man and a woman are charged with murder six years after a married couple disappeared from their yacht in the Pacific. Directed by Tommy Lee Wallace (T) (2482404)

1.00pm BUSHELL ON THE BOX (68958)

1.30pm FILM: WITHOUT A TRACE (1983)

starring Kate Nelligan, Judi Hirsch and David Dukes. A mother whose husband has left her returns home to find her young son missing. She faces months of uncertainty before she knows if he is alive or dead. Directed by Stanley R. Jaffe (8210768)

3.40pm NEWS (T) (96017687)

4.05pm COACH (T) (26841584)

4.30pm THE PLACE... (76923)

5.00pm AN INVITATION TO REMEMBER (T) (51126)

5.30pm NEWS (46107)

5.45pm SIGHTING (T) (2684158)

6.00pm SURVIVAL: Mountains of the Snow Leopard (T) (7371)

6.30pm POLICE, CAMERA, ACTION! Lester Stewart on a series of assignments with helicopter news journalist Bob Tur (222) (T) (95336)

9.00pm MOLL FLANDERS In the final episode

Moil turns to thieving when she finds herself penniless in London, but is soon caught and sentenced to hang in Newgate Prison (T) (5309)

10.00pm NEWS (T) and weather (47731)

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